S920.71 H869sk Manuscript

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Sketch-Book

&c. No 2.

(See No 1. for title.)
From Sept 1835 to Jany. 1836 (inclusive)

Including,
Crude Essays &c. from first thoughts, without regard to Style or Method; serving as data for various purposes.

"To me be Nature's volume broad displayed;
And to peruse its all instructing page,
My sole delight."

"Presented to the enlarged eye of taste,
No rock is barren, and no wild is waste."

The admirable simplicity of nature is said to be a conclusive proof of the infinite wisdom of the Deity, and undoubtedly it is so as Pope says – The

"The whole one every part proclaims
His infinite good will;
It shines in stars, and flows in streams,
And bursts from every hill."

"We view it o'er the spreading plain,
And heavens which spread more wide;
It drops in gentle showers of rain,
And rolls in every tide."

Browne.

Article 1

Memoranda. Monday noon, Sept. 28 - 1835 left the Legislature at Boston, and proceeded on the rail road cars to Worcester, and put up at the U States Hotel, kept by Worthington and Clarke. Next day proceeded to Deerfield, by Holden, Hubbardston, Templeton and Ashfield.

Wednesday 30th, attended the commemoration of Capt Lothrop's Battle at Bloody Brook, and heard an oration by Edward Everett, on the centre of the field, in his usual happy manner. Estimated the collection of the people at 5,000; some much higher. People from distant places were present, many of high respectability. The day was fine, with the exception of a cold wind, which was a some embarrassment to the speakers, and the vocal music. I delivered a short address at the ceremony of laying the corner stone to the monument of the Slain heroes, which I was informed met with general approbation.

Monday 5th of Octr returned to Boston at night, and Tuesday the 6th joined the Legislature, having been absent one week.

Dunn

During my absence a distinctive fire took place on the corner of Water & Devonshire streets, in which several newspaper establishments were murdering. 1800 copies of the N American Review, for Sept. 1835, and 5000 copies of the American almanac for 1836 were destroyed. The whole loss is estimated at 80.000 Dollars.

Comet

2 The predicted Comet, (Halley's) has been observed here, during the month of September and October. It was first seen at Newhaven, near the Constellation of Taurus, and in its course passed near Ursa Major. To the naked eye, it is not very brilliant, and appears with a faint tail, but the body with its envelope of considerable size. The tail seems to be much diminished from its former size, as given in old accounts. In 1456 the tail is said to have been 60° in length; since, as a writer observes, "it appears probable that in describing their immense orbits comets, at each revolution, dispersed in space all the matter which, when they are near the perihelion, is detached from the envelope, forming the tail; it is therefore

very probable that in time some of them may be entirely dissipated, unless in receiving constantly, once in various elevations, the luminous rays of a similar nature left by other comets, they recover from time to time as much matter as they have lost."

Query. If the matter of the comet is detained, in the manner above supposed, would it remain suspended in space and be taken up by other worlds passing it? Or would this matter be attracted to the sun or planets, before a comet should arrive to receive it? To me it appears that matter cannot remain in space, unless it has a motion around some other matter, ~~and therefore that~~ ~~[illegible]~~. The sun may be supposed to be an exception to this position; but I suppose it is not so; for I believe that future observation and improvements in astronomy will demonstrate that our sun, as well as all others in the universe, circulate round some centre in the same manner as the planets and comets do round the Sun. It is

is not however incorrect to say, that the matter of the comets may be dissipated before they approach our system, and comets with the sun and planets, and thereby lose some of their matter.

The appearance of Halley's Comet and the deficiency of proper instruments in this Country, for observing the heavenly bodies, forcibly illustrate the necessity of some appropriations from government, for the erection and establishment of astronomick observatories. The state of the federal treasury would now afford this, and those of the States by a proper retrenchment of the funds unnecessary expenses, would enable them to afford ample sums for this purpose. But we are told that the high officers must have high salaries to keep up the dignity of the government. To me it appears, however, that there can be little dignity, where so mean an argument is given for great salaries in the receivers. The truth is, that, unless in some of the cases relating to ancient fashions or elegance is matched out of low ebb in this Country; some that it may be expected for human purposes.

Philosophical Instruments.

Some specimens to found in Boston, several shops for the manufacture of these instruments. I have visited. One at No 9 in Court Street kept by N.B. Chamberlain; one at No 9 Cornhill, by R Newton Prince and another in the same street No 33 by Clapton & Wightman. All the instruments which I have examined, appear to be well made, handsome as elegant as those made in London. Clapton & Wightman's contain a greater variety than the other, as well as some imported from England. At their shop I found elegant 12 inch globes, mounted by Lowing for 30 dollars a pair, without covers. In the shop of Prince were many articles for the elucidation of medical and surgical science; particularly models of the human eye by Dr J.N.C. Smith; case of the human eye by the same. I procured Catalogues from each shop, of the instruments contained, with their prices.

In Cornhill I found three bookstores, adjoining each other, containing a great variety of 2d hand Books; I had of 4th Dec. I found in the last three an extensive & very valuable science works.

Also Joseph Brown of Washington St, 1/2 Stairs; 0/1/ Faneuil Hall Street.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY. ASTRONOMICAL APPARATUS, &c. The note we published some time since, from Professor Farrar, relating to the want of a proper telescope at the University in Cambridge, has given occasion for a goodly number of sneering paragraphs from editors in various parts of the Union. There would be no harm, perhaps, in alluding to the poverty of this rich institution, if those who wrote the paragraphs in question had taken care to distinguish between the institution itself and one of its able and worthy Professors. It is no fault of Mr. Farrar's that the University is not furnished with a telescope of suitable size and power, and all other articles that compose a complete Astronomical Apparatus; and we do not see any reason why he should be the subject of reproaches, which, if justifiable under any consideration, we are sure should not be cast upon him.

The truth is, Dr. Farrar has done all that he could do to improve and advance the reputation of the University in this respect. We believe that, nearly twenty years ago, he represented to the Corporation the wants of his department, and urged upon that body the expediency of adopting some measures to relieve it from its state of destitution, and place it in a condition that should be useful to the state and creditable to the University. He also brought the subject directly to the public notice, by the following letter, which he wrote to the editor of the North-American Review, and which was published in that periodical, for December, 1818, on the importance of an Observatory at Cambridge :—

Extract from a letter addressed to the Editor, on the importance of an Observatory at Cambridge.

It has long been considered as very desirable to have an Observatory at Cambridge, connected with the University. It was a favorite object with our late Presidents, and some steps were taken by them towards having one erected. Many new offices have since been created, and the system of instruction much enlarged, so that the want of such an establishment is still more apparent and more sensibly felt.

An Observatory has long been considered by enlightened nations, as one of the noblest objects that can claim the patronage of the public or of individuals. In Great Britain and Ireland,—beside the great national Observatory at Greenwich, and two others endowed by the King,—there is one belonging to each of the Universities and about twenty in the possession of noblemen and private gentlemen. There are no less than ten Observatories in Paris and about as many more in the different parts of France. There are two or three in Portugal, four in Spain, eight or ten in Italy, one in most of the large cities of Germany and Russia, several in Sweden and Denmark; and even Norway and Iceland are not without similar establishments. China and many of the nations of the East were even before the Europeans in their attention to these means of cultivating Astronomy, and in their encouragement of those persons who were disposed to make use of them. We are almost the only nation of any pretensions to learning and the arts, which has totally neglected to provide for this branch of knowledge. Amidst all our public seminaries and public societies, instituted for the promotion of useful science, we cannot boast of a single foundation for an Observatory in the United States, or in North America. It is believed that there is not one upon this continent,—which may be said to owe its discovery to the light that was thrown upon it from this source.

We depend upon Europe, not only for our knowledge of the heavens, but for our astronomical tables and books of navigation, for the means which we possess of determining the relative situation of places among ourselves, for whatever instruction and gratification we derive from the few astronomical observations which are made amongst us. We could not even calculate an almanac without help from abroad.

The Observatory at Greenwich so justly celebrated,—which is of such inestimable importance to the scientific world,—was built expressly for the purpose of aiding commerce by rendering navigation more safe and easy. This purpose has been most happily answered. The most valuable improvements have been made here in the means and methods of finding a ship's place at sea and of conducting her from one port to another. The lives of thousands, it may be presumed, have been saved by the information and directions that have been derived from the labors of this institution. But the methods which are furnished to mariners are not yet perfect;—there are many places, especially upon our coast, whose latitude and longitude are so uncertain as to mislead the most skilful. There are local points also in astronomy, as well as in navigation, that deserve attention. There are phenomena in the heavens, that are to be observed only at particular times and in particular parts of the earth. There are modifications and corrections of common nautical observations, that depend upon peculiarities of climate and situation, and which can be determined only by fixed instruments of the best construction. The scientific and commercial world have a right to expect from us that information which is to be obtained in no other place. Besides, it is time for us to begin to observe and examine for ourselves and to contribute something to the general stock.

The first Observatory of a country, if well endowed and well conducted, naturally takes precedence of all subsequent ones, and is acknowledged as a centre and common place of reference for astronomical and geographical observations. There are many things that give Cambridge a claim to this distinction. It has very great natural advantages for such an establishment. Its sit-

uation with respect to foreign Observatories, deduced from observations that have already been made, is better understood, and the library and philosophical apparatus of the College are better furnished, than those of any other place in the country. It may be added also, that the Corporation of the College have taken measures for improving these advantages. They have authorized a committee to make out an order for a few of the best instruments for an Observatory. But such instruments are very expensive. A single one, lately erected at Greenwich, cost more than five thousand dollars. It is pronounced to be the most perfect and the most magnificent instrument ever consecrated to astronomy. We wish to procure one after the same model and by the same artist, and that our other more essential instruments may be exact copies of those which have recently been made for this celebrated institution. We might thus avail ourselves of the science and skill of the old world, which have been the fruits of so many years' experience and research. But our means are too limited to admit of our putting this plan in execution. We not only want instruments to the amount of eight or ten thousand dollars, but we want a building that will cost as much more, and we want a person to take charge of this establishment who shall devote himself entirely to the objects intended to be answered by it. We might then look at the stars with our own eyes; we might then hope to do something for the advancement of science and for the honour of our country. To accomplish all this, we want nothing but money. We have a man amongst us most eminently qualified for the station,—a profound astronomer, who is already considerably accustomed to the business of observing, much attached to the College, highly respected and beloved by all his acquaintance,—and who has translated the most complete and the most difficult work which has hitherto appeared on the subject of astronomy, illustrating it at the same time with copious notes, that will probably render it accessible to a hundred persons, where it is now accessible to one. This work, should the public be favored with it, will make him better known, and we shall learn from foreign critics more justly to estimate his talents and attainments.

Cambridge, Nov. 1818.

We republish this letter for the purpose of showing that Dr. Farrar has not been inattentive to the duties which devolve upon him as a Professor, and that the public may know what his feelings upon this subject were as long ago as 1818. We have been informed, from authority that cannot be in an error, that Dr. Farrar solicited subscriptions from individuals to aid in the purchase of instruments; and that one individual,—Mr. J. Q. Adams,—subscribed five hundred dollars—and several others subscribed a hundred dollars each. In pursuance of the action of the Corporation, referred to in the preceding letter, the Professor transmitted an order to a celebrated manufacturer in Great-Britain; but in consequence of other engagements at the time, the order was not executed. Whether that the subscriptions abovementioned were ever paid, we are not informed.

We have not prepared this article to screen the Corporation of Harvard University from any censure or reproach that it may be supposed to deserve, because its Astronomical instruments are not equal to those of Yale College: but to shield from unmerited personality an industrious and accomplished Professor, and an estimable gentleman. It will not be denied that Harvard College should have an Observatory, and that it should be supplied with instruments superior to any others in the country; and we think we do no more than justice to Professor Farrar, when we say that no man would be more gratified than he, or make greater sacrifices, to accomplish an object so desirable.

7

The forgery is cut from the Boston Courier of the 17th of October 1835;

and as it expresses my sentiments on the subject of Observatories I think it should be preserved. Cambridge may be a favorable site from observations, and combined with the other advantages, for being the best in the State. Situation from its elevated situation, affords a good position. But in the present

distracted State of public sentiment we look in vain for any grants from the treasury, for valuable purposes. Otherwise, as we are, in meritorious pursuits, once the scramble for office, improvement in the higher branches of science, will receive no attention from the majority of our Legislators. Mr Adams, when President, once suggested to Congress the importance of building in the establishment of an observatory in the United States; but the proposition met the ridicule of the wits of the day. It was called a project for erecting "Light houses in the Sky". and thus Flourished now depressed on Europe for an science, since, at the same time, boast of our superior knowledge over that of Europe. Blind, as if this science were useless to us, we first destroy stations on the lake shore. When will our sages be enlightened?

4. Death of Mr Hatsel Purple, the Representative from Gill.

Mr Purple, being a little unwell, obtained leave of absence, returned home and died at his house in Gill, of an fever. Mr Chapman announced his death in the house, and resolutions were passed expressive of feelings of the members, and ordered to be communicated to his family. As Mr Purple was an active man of business in the County of Franklin, his loss will be felt by the people. He is supposed to be left a handsome property. He served many years under me as Deputy Sheriff, and at his decease, was one of our Special County Commissioners.

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5 The weather at Boston, during the month of October, has been very wet and generally warm and generally clear, — at one time in the Legislature lately taken up in the revised of the Statutes of the Commonwealth. When this work is completed it will be very useful to the people at large. It is to be published in one or two Vols: & sold at a cheap price. Probably the Contracting parties will have copies that may be procured [illegible]

6 Acumen's Engine

A self moving Engine, called a Pneumato-rimon (a learned name to be sure) is now exhibiting in Boston at 25 cents. It is said to be moved by a power gained by the expansion and contraction of pencilled Atmospheric Air, and without any chemical aid will continue to move so long as the machinery remains in good order. Letters patent are said to be secured by the inventor.

If this is a true description, the engine is a beneficial invention; and the question is, whether it can be applied to useful purposes. I hope the inventor will not rest satisfied with an exhibition of his invention, but will attempt to apply it to the working of useful machines. His success is doubtful.

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7 Mr Everett's Oration, delivered at Bloody Brook, on the 30th of September 1835, is now in the Press in Boston, with an Appendix containing an account of the commemoration Sunday, and of the corner stone, which has been fastened the year. The whole work makes a pamphlet of considerable length. Mr Whiting and

I am making efforts to raise, by contribution, a sum of money sufficient to erect a monument on the ground where the massacre of Lathrop and his company occurred. Whether we shall succeed I am not certain. About 200 dollars have been raised, and we may want 600 or 800 dollars more. But should we fail of procuring the wished for sum, we must, erect a monument of a smaller size than we had intended. Five hundred dollars may answer my wishes; but some others look higher. Plainness and durability should be regarded, rather than magnitude and elegance. When the monument is completed it will be an interesting object, and attract much of the attention of the antiquarian traveller. The place should be enclosed by ornamental trees, and covered with grass, affording a pleasant promenade for the visitant. Once the monument should contain as much description of the ambuscade as can be inscribed upon it.

Of the utility of monuments, to mark the place of our early battles, much might be said.

8 Mem.: Mr Lincoln, our President and myself, entered our names at Brooks's No. 127 Washington Street, for 4 European Reviews, now published in New-York for one year: took 4 numbers and found 4 Dollars, each, for the same (being 8 Dollars for the year). The regulating neighbors to be claimed of Robert Williams to be forwarded to Deerfield, by Stimpson, or otherwise. The Reviews are Edinburgh Quarterly, London Quarterly, Westminster Quarterly and Foreign Quarterly, making 16 Nos. in a year. Subscription for one year. Receipt given us —

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9 Wednesday Nov. 4. 1835. This day the adjourned session of the Legislature closed its labors and was prorogued by the Lt Governor, after a session of unremitted labor of — 64 Days
my absence at B. Block — 7
Leaves my attendance — 57
Travel 100 miles

Left subscription for Lathrop's magazine with Mr Cook & Stringer Boston
Mr Roberts of Salem (2)
Sawyer of Braintree
Robinson Beverly (2) (Comp. of Jno) sent a day Bond

10. Messrs. Russell Shattuck & Co. have printed Mr Everett's address at Bloody Brook, in a handsome pamphlet, and deliver to Mr Whitney and myself 400, at 1 cents for which we are answerable to them viz for 40 Dollars giving us time to dispose of them. Mr Whitney took home 100, and I am to receive the rest: viz 300.

The weather this day is warm and as pleasant as summer, & without wind; the sky a little hazy.

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11 While attending the Legislature, at the adjourned session, Stock Mallet's Daily advocate, was mentioned, and suspended the Semi weekly: the time 2 months. Hence my 2 years pay for the letter, for 1 year, as per month, must extend 2 months over a year.

1835 (12) Return to Deerfield.

Nov 7. Saturday morning at 3 o'clock, set out from Boston for Deerfield in the New-Salem Stage, and arrived at Chicopee, after 12 o'clock

8th. Sunday morning; the day cloudy with a little rain since some fog; the weather mild. From Petersham to the east village

of New Salem, the evening was dark and lamps were necessary; but the moon soon rose, being about the full, and the light was sufficient to see, distinctly, all objects in the vicinity of the roads. Had I the pen of the poet I could give a pleasing picture of this night scenery. The exquisite delicacy of the foliage of the trees, reflecting the light of the lamps, ~~[illegible]~~ with the ~~green~~ verdure of the pines and hemlock, were beyond my powers of description; and the more distant objects presented fantastic views highly pleasing. A residence of about two months in Boston had habituated ~~the~~ my eye to the view of streets buildings ~~and~~ shipping and ~~other~~ clustered objects, which still seemed to be before the eye, in all their forms. A large distant tree was either a church or a ship, and the woods adjacent, rows of buildings and streets stretching out in various directions, in the most natural manner. The square form of the windows of the carriage, limiting the view, produced a picture of the distant objects, perfectly resembling a framed one of the painter; and indeed it was difficult for me to conceive, that the view was not one of a city or harbor.

on approaching Connecticut river, the ~~large~~ lines on the opposite side, were perfect representations of large ships, with their masts and rigging, within its banks as if a squadron had assembled to this place. Whether the hazyness which prevailed partially obscured the objects, or ~~a strong~~ imagination produced the effect, I am not certain. But I can say that seldom have I witnessed scenery more beautiful and attracting. I have noticed similar appearances in other rich expansions in the Stage, but none which I thought more complete and natural.

Another pleasing appearance may be noticed, in stage riding, in the day time, particularly when the carriage moves with rapidity. By fixing the eye upon a tree at 20 or 30 rods from the road, and considering it as stationary, where the wood are open and distant trees can be seen beyond an opening, these distant trees appear to be in a rapid circular motion, forward, and those near the road, in a similar motion backward. This ~~the~~ ~~appearance~~ illusion is very striking and curious and I know not that I have any where seen it noted, excepting by Sir John F.W.

Poor at lecture notes

Herschel, in his treatise on Astronomy, who calls it a parallactic motion. See his Astronomy Chapt. page 18 & 19 ~

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13 Wednesday & Thursday 11th & 12th November, the weather has changed from what may be called warm, to that which is common at this season; On the latter day we had several squalls of snow, though slight, and we begin to bundle up in our winter clothing; but the earth remains dry. and springs & streams low. Perhaps we have seldom seen so warm a fall, which was a favorable circumstance for our crop of Corn, which is good in the intervals, though, owing to its backwardness, there is an unusual quantity of soft ears. On the hill country, this crop is rather deficient, and the fodder is high; & probably will soon be worth one dollar per bushel. This with the high price of broom corn, will afford our Farmers some profit. The latter crop in some instances, has been sold for dollars per Acre, nearly the value of the land as formerly estimated. Should this fodder continue, the crop will be extensively ~~raised~~ cultivated, next year.

Thursday 19 (of Nov.) The weather for several days past has been very mild & since at this time continues so — no frost in the grounds — a small quantity of rain has fallen since the sky is frequently overcast with clouds.

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14 Fatal News from Jacksonville, Florida.

By a Letter from the Courier, Jacksonville, we are informed that Elijah Williams my son-in-law died at that place, November 3. 1835. He had been sick for sometime since in a deranged state of mind, but had nearly recovered, since renewed his business. A relapse took place which induced in his death after six days. His age 33 years and about 4 months.

The life of this young man had been somewhat chequered and unfortunate. He was educated at Harvard College where he received the usual degree. After leaving that institution he went through the common course of law study and commenced practice in Deerfield; but this prospect seems not to have been congenial to his mind. He went inland into innocuous business in Deerfield; but in this he soon

found himself involved in debt, from which he was partially relieved by his father & another connexion. He next went to Boston where he engaged in various business of small importance, & at length was employed as a clerk in the Adjutant General's office under General Sumner. Not finding an adequate support in this employment, he left the office, and, invited by a gentleman of Jacksonville, East Florida, he proceeded to that place & established an office for printing a newspaper with Lorenzo Crowell a printer of Roxbury, in which business he continued as editor, until the time of his death. While in the practice of Law at Deerfield he married my Daughter Isa Nelle; but left no children. In time his parents, now residing in Deerfield have lost their only surviving child; and myself a companion whom I shall hopeful to see sustaining a useful and respectable standing in community.

Mr. Williams military services are omitted above. While resided in Deerfield he made exertions to institute a Company of

Light Infantry in the town and at length succeeded, of which he was chosen Captain, in which office he served several years. Fond of this kind of parade he, wented himself to render the company brilliant, procured a set of tents and expended a considerable sum of money which he could not afford; and afterwards served as an aid to Brigadier General Gilbert if I mistake not.

Though possessed of military ambition this service was by no means suitable for him; for his constitution was feeble and required the utmost regularity to keep it in a healthy state, and probably had he remained in New England his life would not have been protracted to a great length, for he had a consumptive diathesis. His life has been short, and probably more checked with unfortunate events, than he would have experienced had his ambition been less. But the habits he have imbibed at College and the free use of the means furnished by a fond & indulgent Father, ill fitted him for an inhabitant of this world.

15 In the Foreign Quarterly Review for July 1835, I found the following.

"The Berlin Military Journal of May 16, publishes the hitherto inedited introduction of Frederick 2d, to his "General Principles of the Art of War, applied to the tactics and discipline of the Prussian troops" 1752. It was a confidential communication to the chief officers of his army, which has been, at length, brought to light after a lapse of 82 years"

Now here a work intitled "Instructions to his Generals" by the King, was the above an introduction to this, or some other work on tactics? It may be a valuable document for military officers.

Every fragment from the pen of this consummate commander, should be preserved, for the benefit of those intrusted with the command of armies, whether for offence or defence; and when the tug of war shall ~~come~~ be felt by our country, it will be seen that ~~we are ready~~ we are absolutely destitute of any real military knowledge,

1835 excepting what is taught in the school at West-Point; and this affords little, or no aid to our military officers, who are left to play with empty baubles and puerile show, under the name of discipline — a mockery of tactics and a disgrace to a people calling themselves free and independent.

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16 1835. November 23. The weather to this time has continued rather warm for the season, and the ground unfrozen: this morning we have a snow of two or three inches, and it continues to fall and indicates a bountiful supply before it ceases fall 5 or 6 inches.

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17 Ross' Voyage in search of a North west Passage, in the years 1829-30. 31-32-33 — 4to pp. 740, with plates.

At Boston I saw this work, and was pleased with its appearance, but the price (about 9 dollars) was more than I felt able to pay, and therefore it happens that many Entrepreneur works are shut out

out from the people of moderate property in the United States. This is in part owing to the high duty imposed on foreign literary works, by our government: a miserable policy, to limit us to American publications. The plea is, by these restrictions our presses will be aided in the reproduction of foreign Books, and thereby we shall be furnished with them at a cheaper rate, once ~~[illegible]~~ emulated by our own productions. But the result is, ~~that~~ many large works ~~[illegible]~~ are not be republished, since we therefore ~~[illegible]~~ are deprived of much useful matter, which the literature and science of Europe has brought forth. We have no objections to countervailing duties on articles which may be manufactured in this country, with a skill equal to that of Europe; but to extend them to those which can be but imperfectly manufactured here, is preposterous.

Take for example Mathematical and Philosophical instruments. These articles, though in a free interest ~~[illegible]~~ executed, with a tolerable accuracy, cannot be found in this

Country sufficiently perfect for nice operations.

The astronomer and Engineer then must import them from Europe, and pay the heavy duty imposed upon them. When we shall find Instrument makers among us, in sufficient numbers, the case will be different; but many years will pass before we shall arrive at such accuracy in the construction of those instruments; and our Astronomers and Engineers must submit to the continental policy, which compels them to pay heavy duties on the most operative instruments. The same principles hold good in relation to the importation of scientific books. We hope this policy will at length be seen in all its bearings.

Being thus deprived of a perusal of Capt. Ross' voyage, we have had recourse to the English Reviews for its contents and character. In the London ~~North~~ ~~Monthly~~ Quarterly Review for July 1835, we observe a disposition to depreciate the value of the work; and indeed, some of the facts related by Ross are represented as wanting truth for their foundation.

The Reviewer says, "Have he (Capt Ross) on his

his arrival, published in small octavo volume, detailing the toils and sufferings of his home - their cares and anxieties - their hopes and disappointments - their domestic economy and mode of employing their time in the long and inhospitable nights of four successive winters - and their laborious home journeys, the most harassing and fatiguing of all - he might have furnished a powerfully interesting, though painful narrative, which would have been in the hands of every one; but his cumbersome quarto in the form of a journal, recording the same uninteresting home of, objects through 740 large pages, is enough to set the most resolute reader at defiance".

We have heard similar complaints of works, from some pretenders to literature in this country; but in general we have found them in the class of those who may be called literary loungers, who have not the patience or ~~[illegible]~~ disposition, to seat themselves in their closets, a sufficient length of time to investigate philosophic principles, and pursue a chain of facts, in relation

to recondite subjects. ~~The~~ On "octavo volume treating upon the subjects the Reviewer enumerates, might perhaps satisfy his taste to the full extent; but to us something more seems necessary from one who had spent three or four years in the frigid zone, near the pole. Meteorology, magnetism, electricity, geology, geography and natural history, as much as other subjects which pressent themselves under novel forms, ought not to escape investigations in a voyage of the nature of that of Capt. Ross. ~~—~~ That taste which would reject these subjects, if presented, had better be employed in the perusal of Novels or other works of fiction which so much engross the attention of our people ~~of late~~ at the present day.

The Reviewer gives an abstract of Ross' Journal, and short as it is, we think it shows clearly that the voyage must be very interesting to the naturalist. The discovery of the magnetic pole is noticed; but with some oblique hints in relation to the personal agency of Capt. Ross in the discovery, which is attributed to his

nephew, commander James Clark Ross. Which of the two made the discovery is of little consequence, provided the fact be real.

"The place of the observatory was as near the magnetic pole, says commander Ross, "as the limited means which I possessed enabled me to determine. The amount of the dip, as indicated by my dipping needle, was 89° 59', being then within one minute of the vertical; while the proximity at least of this pole, if not its actual position where we stood, was further confirmed by the action, or rather by the total inaction of the several horizontal needles then in my possession. These were suspended in the most delicate manner possible, but there was not one which showed the slightest effort to move from the position in which it was placed: a fact, which even the most modestly informed Magnetic must know to be one which proves that the centre of attraction lies at a very small horizontal distance".

The Lat. of the spot is fixed at 70° 5' 17", and the Long. 96° 46' 45" W

Before ~~they~~ they left England the pole was presumed to be in Lat. 70° and Long. 98° 30', neither of them very distant from the places assigned to it by Parry and Franklin, by intersections of the bearings of the needles, taken on meridians east and west of the pole.

The position of the pole had been conjecturally Professor Hansteen of Christiania from a great number of observations he had collected from various sources, and he had fixed its Lat. at 67° 10' and Long. 92° 24' near the position assigned by Ross. Parry had pointed to the north of it, and found his needles nearly ~~horizontal~~ horizontal, and the dip a little short of 90 degrees. The American magnetic pole then, appears to have been ascertained beyond dispute.

The final escape of Ross and the survivors of his crew, from their ice bound ship, is detailed by the Review; but it seems to be disguised at the honors conferred on the commander on his return to England. At the close we have the following. "On the whole, whether we look at his evi

dence

-dence before the Committee of the House of Commons, on at his strange narrative, we can arrive at no other conclusion than this — that Sir John Ross C.B. K.S.A. C.S. &c is utterly incompetent to conduct an arduous naval enterprise for discovery to a successful termination. What we complain of, however, is not so much the want of skill, as the loose and inaccurate manner in which he slurs over and states facts, whose only value is their minute correctness."

Should the government of England again fit out an expedition for the discovery of the long sought passage, the Admiralty recommends Captain James Clark Ross (the nephew of Sir John) as the officer whom we should pronounce the best qualified for this honorable duty; and Captain Back is named for his second in command.

See page 29

The Edinburgh Quarterly Review we are informed gives a different account to Sir John Ross' voyage, which we may notice hereafter.

1835 The weather now (Nov. 29) is cold and the sleighing good; and owing to the dryness of the fall season, we are greatly troubled for want of water in our wells. The wells are dug in the brooks at some distance. Should this weather continue we shall suffer much for want of water. Some of our people have lately been supplied from aqueduct laid for leading to the springs on the eastern hills, a method which must be more generally adopted by the village to insure a supply of water in the winter season. Country travelers experience shows that our edifices and furniture in them are stupendous. Such a stove ought to be more extensively used in these times, especially as our fuel diminishes. & stoves more extensively used. Stoves of a proper construction would be found convenient and economical, but most of those in use are defective, they are too small and require the wood well dri. there to be reduced to small billets, which adds much to the expense of the fuel, and coal is too high for constant use.

19 Review of Capt. Ross's Voyage in search of a Northwest Passage by the Edinburgh Review, for April since June July 1835

We have already noticed the cavilling remarks of the London Quarterly Review upon this Voyage, and it is with satisfaction we turn to the fair and candid remarks of the Edinburgh Review on the same voyage, ~~[illegible]~~ characteristic of the enlarged spirit of its colleague of London.

To us it appears extraordinary that two works of the same nature, should give such disagreeing reviews of a work of which both must have been competent judges; and either of which taken alone, would have formed our opinion of the merits or demerits of every work. To what then must we attribute this difference; hence how are we to judge of the merits of a work from any one review?

The London Quarterly boldly allows Ross to possess common veracity in relation to facts, while the Edinburgh presents nothing but what is from

-est and fair on the part of Capt. I have indeed the latter does not already appear of his work; but in no case does it impute any error but what might arise from misjudgement, to which all are liable. His discrepancy of the two Narrows, has shaken my faith in such works, and left me to choose my Authors from my own inspection of them. Without impeaching the ~~[illegible]~~ (~~[illegible]~~) details of the voyage faithfully I sincerely hope it may find its way to American readers, in a less costly shape than some of our publications; for I cannot believe that a residence in the polar regions for three or four years, can be devoid of interest, even if the facts are unskilfully detailed.

Remarking upon the discovery of the magnetic pole, the Edinburgh says. "The observations of Capt Perry, have determined the position of the pole with considerable accuracy. The writer of this article has from these observations, placed it in 71° 27'; and if we take the two longitudes, at which Capt Perry found the easterly and westerly variations equal in the same parallel of latitude.

The

the mean of these will give us the longitude of the magnetic pole. Now on the 3rd of August in Lat. 74° 25', and W Long. 80° 8' the variation was 106° 58' 5" westerly; while in N. Lat. 74° 26', & W. Long. 113° 48' the variation was 106° 6' 38" westerly. The mean of these longitudes is 96° 58', differing only 11' from that found by Commander Ross, and even this difference will disappear when we consider that the variations taken from Capt Parry are not equally equal. This magnetic Pole, the strongest of the two in the northern hemisphere, was placed in N. Lat. 69° 16', and W Long. 92° 24', in 1813 by Professor Hansteen of Christiania, who makes its mean annual motion 11' 4", or its period of revolution 1890 years. As 17 years have elapsed between 1813 and 1830, its motion westward must in that time have been 17 × 11', 425, or 3° 14', which added to 92° 24', makes the Long. 95° 38', a result differing a little more from an algebraic mean that given by Commander Ross.

Ross.

* Hansteen seems to have mistaken this calculation, and to have substituted the magnetic pole's mean annual motion for its equivalent in longitude. See Hansteen's Magnetism, Vol. II. Edinburgh Encyclopædia Article Magnetism.

Ross's claim to the discovery of the magnetic pole, the Review is unwilling to admit. Says, "It was certainly a great satisfaction to Sterne upon a rock where the dip was 89° 59', and where the polarity of steel, as found at Greenwich, was insensible; but it may be questioned whether or not the place of the magnetic pole can be best determined by observations made at a distance or near the spot; and we are not satisfied that the position assigned by Commander Ross is more accurate than that given by the curves of Hansteen, Barlow, the calculations of Hansteen, and the observations of Capt. Perry."

In reading the review it must be recollected, that there is a distinction between Capt. Ross and Commander Ross; the latter was nephew to the Captain, and second in command. The title commander for the second in command, seems to be improper.

Any further attempt to find a north west passage, we think, ought not be made

made by the British Government, as it would, if discovered, be of no practical use in navigation; and without removing the northern coasts of America can be navigated by avoiding perils, if danger important, for facing its geography. We look eagerly for the publication of the journal of Capt Back, who was sent out by the British Government, for the relief of Capt Ross and his crew; but with little expectation that they were living.

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20 Letter from John C Calhoun, on Masonry.

This Letter written several years ago has appeared in the Pennsylvania Anti-masonic papers, and in the Boston Press for Nov. 27-1835. We extract the following.

"I have been at all times unfavorable to masonry, and in the habit of expressing myself so, whenever a suitable opportunity offered. Passing over all other objections, which have always appeared to me numerous and strong,

I have ever thought it impossible that a secret association so wealthy and powerful, once organized so as to bring the whole of its power into a few hands, could be prevented from interfering in the politics of the country; and never doubted the pernicious tendency of such interference.

I see the opposition to the institution is spreading extensively over the northern states. It has not yet reached the South, except a small portion of Alabama. I never did doubt the death of Morgan would prove fatal to the institution, unless the masons themselves took the lead in bringing the perpetrators of the foul deed to condign punishment. I so expressed myself to the gentleman who first informed me of the incident. To suppose that it would not rouse the public indignation, that it would not be directed against masonry itself, unless it should acquit itself of all suspicions of participation or countenancing of the horrid act, by the most active exertions to bring the criminals to justice,

would be to suppose the people utterly unworthy of the liberty which they enjoy, and prepared for the yoke of despotism. That the feelings which it has excited at the North has not extended to their sections, must be attributed to the fact that the attention of the South is deeply engrossed in maintaining what they believe to be a great constitutional principle, essentially connected with the liberty and tranquillity of our country. The impression under which they act, is too deep to evaporate, with much force, any other". —

The origin of this letter, says Mr Hewlett, was a call upon him, (Mr G.) by an individual, relative to a supposed motion he had made in public concerning Masonry.

Let the silence, the stupid, the mad suspicions of freemasonry among our leading politicians in New England, recall the Calhounite sentiments as expressed in the above letter, and reflect on their disgraceful conduct —

Upon the Bar-room politician I can look with a degree of complacency and pity his stupidity; but to see such a closet man, one such as we in the current of information, I have no words to express my feelings of detestation of their conduct, in relation to the murder of Morgan by the fraternity of freemasons.

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21 A History of the late War with Great Britain, is announced in the papers for immediate publication, by Gen Armstrong, who was secretary of War during a part of the contest. It is said that it reflects with severity on the conduct of several of the officers who commanded. Of the ability of Gen. Armstrong to execute such a task I have no doubt, but no one acquainted with the circumstances in which he was placed, will expect to find it impartial. That great faults were committed by the commanders is probable, and if I have any skillfully points out, the work may be useful for future Generals. We shall be impatient to

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The Jacksonville Courier of the 19 - November 1835, received Dec. 4th, announces the death of Dr Charles Hoyt at that place, suddenly, on the 18th of November. He was son of my late Brother, Elihu Hoyt, and aged about 31 years

On the 8th of January 1835 he left Deerfield and proceeded from New York on board of a packet for Jacksonville, where he commenced the practice of Physic, I am informed, with some success. In August last, he experienced a severe sickness, attended with delirium, but soon recovered and returned to his practice. His death is said to have been sudden, but the particulars we have not received.

Dr. Hoyt had prospered through the usual course of study, and practiced some at Deerfield, What were his prospects at Jacksonville we know not, and whether he intended to make that place his permanent residence is doubtful. The place is new & said to be as healthy as any other in East Florida. But I doubt whether it is adapted to our northern people.

The transition from one climate, to one ~~to~~ far south, is too great. People indeed from New-England reside ~~there~~ in Florida and enjoy health; but to become acclimated to the country, it is important that they emigrate at the proper season, say the fall, and on the approach of the hot season, return to the north. In this manner, in the course of two or three years, it is supposed, they may become habituated ~~to~~ the climate and make it a safe place of residence. But to me it appears that the hot weather of the country is too severe, and of too long continuance for a comfortable residence; and that more northern and elevated regions are preferable for northern men. The Prairies of Pennsylvania and Ohio appear to me to be the most eligible for the settlements of our emigrants; and every thing, farms will be more fruitful there in old settlements, until they are opened, and cultivated some time. When first settled the Genesee country was unhealthy and fevers were common; but at this time it is as healthy as New England.

Dr Rush says "It is a well known

fact, that intermittent and bilious fevers have increased in Pennsylvania in proportion as the country has been cleared of its wood, in many parts of the state; and that it is equally certain that these fevers have lessened, or disappeared, in proportion as the country has been cultivated." (Medical Enquiries and observations Vol 1. page 114 & 115.)

This I think, may be explained, as follows. When the ground is first opened to the rays of the sun, the exhalations from the putrid vegetable matter on the surface is great, and contaminate the incumbent air, and render it unhealthy; but after several years exposure and turning up by the plough, or other means, the vegetable matter is exhausted, and the exhalations are changed, and less deleterious to health, and especially when the surface is covered by flourishing vegetables, as in good cultivation.

In northern latitudes, where the summers are short, these effects may be less felt; and hence northern regions may be found healthy in their incipient cultivation.

Doct. Rush ascribes the unhealthiness of new Countries to the following causes

1 The establishment and increase of Mill ponds.

2. The cutting down of wood in certain circumstances.

He makes a distinction between clearing and cultivating a country. "White clearing a country makes it sickly in the manner which has been mentioned, cultivating a country, that is draining swamps, destroying weeds, burning brush, and exhaling the unwholsome and superfluous moisture of the earth, by means of frequent crops of grain, grasses, and vegetable of all kinds, render it healthy."

"The first settlers received the countries from the hand of nature, pure and healthy. Fevers soon followed their improvements, nor were they finally banished, until the higher degrees of cultivation took place. He confines himself "to those countries only where the salutary effects of cultivation were not rendered abortive by the neighborhood of mill ponds."

He

He adds. "Even the swamps in the US. are healthy before they are cleared. In Delaware State, laborers reap whole summers and autumns in making shingles in the cedar swamps, without being affected by fevers or sickness of any kind. Persons who spend the warm months in the cedar and pine swamps in North Carolina, are likewise equally free from disease".

The Doctor suggests some limits for obviating and preventing fevers and for rendering our country again healthy (meaning new ones) In the first place the planting of trees around mill ponds (besides clearing them occasionally) in order to prevent the diseases that have justly been ascribed to them. Let the trees be planted in the greatest number, and closest together, to leeward of the ordinary current of the summer and autumnal winds. There known, he adds, several instances of families being preserved from fevers by an accidental copse of woods standing between a mill pond

and a dwelling house, and that in cases too where the house derived no advantage from an high situation. The trees around or near a pond, not perhaps in a sense designed mechanically. By sheltering the pond from the action of the Sun, they lessen evaporations, as much as ~~absorb~~ obstruct the the passage of the vapours that are raised, to the adjacent parts. But they act likewise chemically. It has been demonstrated that trees absorb unhealthy air, and discharge it in a highly purified state in the form of dephlogisticated air (now called Oxygen). The willow tree, according to Mr Ingenhousz, has been found to purify the air the most rapidly of any tree that he has subjected to his experiments. The rapidity of its growth, its early verdure, and the late fall of its leaf, all seem to mark it likewise as a tree highly proper for this purpose.

A second method, says the Doctor, of preventing fevers, is to let the cultivation always keep pace with the clearing of our lands. Let every spot

covered with moisture from which the wood has been cut, be carefully cleaned, once afterwards ploughed once sowed with grass seed; let weeds of all kinds be destroyed, and let the waters be so directed as to prevent their stagnating in any part of their course.

Fevers, says the Dr, which a few years ago appeared chiefly on the banks of creeks and rivers and the neighboring meadows, (in Pennsylvania) now appear in spots remote from them all, and in the highest situations!!

This corresponds with my observations in this part of the Country. Since my recollection intermittent fevers were common ~~here~~ in our town, and in some instances several members of a family were carried off in the fall by them. They are now hardly known in the town, but are somewhat frequent in ~~the~~ those on the mountainous ~~ridges~~.

For further remarks on this subject, see Dr Rush's Enquiries into the causes of the increase of Bilious & intermitting fevers in Pennsylvania Vol 2. page 267, of Medical Enquiries: and also for the effect of vegetables, in purifying the air, Perkins'

Chemical Catechism, page 47, and note 37 at the end. (Additional Notes.)
"Berthelot has shown by experiment, that whenever the soil becomes charged with, the leaves of vegetables which rot upon the ground, the oxygen of the atmosphere combines with them and converts them into carbonic acid gas. The consequence of this is, that this same carbon in process of time is absorbed by a new race of vegetables, which it clothes with a new foliage, and which is itself destined to undergo similar putrefaction and renovation to the end of time". and thus
"Link after link the vital air extends,
And the long line of Being never ends."

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24 The weather. Since Nov 23, the first fall of snow of any depth, the weather has continued very cold, up to the 9th of Decr.; the thermometer occasionally 10° on — more, minus, in the morning. The Rivers are frozen, so as to be passed with teams, and the sleighing good. Very little snow since that of the 23 ult. Springs continue very low & want of water great.—

Arrival of my Daughter from Florida.

25 This day, December 7th, my Daughter, Isabella Williams, arrived from Jacksonville East Florida. She came in a Steam Boat to Savannah; thence in Packet Brig William Taylor, Capt Bertram, to New-York, in about 8 days; thence by Steam Boat to New Haven, and thence by Stage to Deer-fields. The whole route about 13 days, inclusive of about a month she tarried at Savannah.

By a letter she had transmitted from the latter place, I had been informed that she had engaged a passage to New York in the above ship, to sail about the 21st or 22d of November, and hearing nothing from her up to the 4th of December I was fearful of some disaster of the vessel. Her residence in Florida during the hot season, also, created a fear that she might be taken sick while on the passage where no medical aid could be afforded. My anxiety therefore, it may be readily perceived, was attended with some perturbations on a distinguishing occasion; The death of her husband and that of

of my connection Dr Hart, heightened my anxiety, and during a fortnight my mind was not of the most tranquil sort. These feelings, I trust, will not be considered as frivolous, by those who have received children, and are anxious for their welfare. My Daughter is now restored to the arms of warm friends, and may she find repose under their fostering care, and reap the rewards of a well spent life.

She represents Jacksonville as a healthy situation for a southern one; but that throws many inconveniences at the place, which render it uncomfortable to Northern people; and that she should not have been contented to have remained in the Country, even had circumstances been more prosperous.

Her tour to Deerfield, upwards of 1100 miles, by water and land, without the company of any of her acquaintance evinces a resolution not always to be found in a female of her age. She seems to have conducted with judgment and steady perseverance, and to have performed the task in the best manner. She suffered

considerably

considerably from sea sickness, but bore it with patience, as a common evil: once she speaks of the kind and gentlemanly conduct of Capt Bernstein the commander of the vessel. At New York he put her on board of the New-Haven Steam boat, without going on shore. The weather being very cold, she suffered some inconvenience in the stage passage to Deerfield, which was expected, from having left a climate so warm as that of Florida.

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26 Copy of a Letter from Lemuel Shattuck to me, containing a request of Massachusetts Historical Society.

Boston Nov. 6 – 1835

To Gen. Epha. Hoyt

Dear Sir.

At the last meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society I was appointed a Committee to apply to you for any manuscripts relating to the History of the Country which you may have collected during your investigations into the subject.

It is the leading object of our society to collect all papers of this kind and to publish occasionally such as may be thought most valuable. We should esteem it a great favor if you would consign to us for the use of the society such as you may have or as may be in the possession of your friends that may be obtained. You will confer a great favor on the society and the cause of Historical truth, and much oblige your friend and humble servt.

(Signed) Lemuel Shattuck

Mr Shattuck is a member of the Historical Society and author of a History of the Town of Concord, 1 Vol. 8vo, published in 1835 at Boston — an interesting work for the people of that part of the Country, but rather too local & concise, for general interest.

In this, we have an account of the "Battle of Concord", containing many interesting particulars. But we think a more minute detail of the retreat of the British to Charlestown, is wanting,

in which every movement and attack from the woods and adjacent fields, should be noted, on an accurate topographical map, exhibiting all the covered spots, ravines defiles and hills, ~~should be delineated~~ as they existed at the time. Such a work, by a scientific military officer, with strategic remarks, would place the affair in its true light, and be useful for military men.

At present there is a contest between the people of Concord and of Lexington respecting the operations at the latter place. The Lexington people attempt to prove that their company under Capt Parker stood their ground and returned the fire of the British, while the Concord people assert that the first fire of the Americans was given at the north Bridge in their town; and pamphlets have been published by each, in support of their respective claims.

Believing that personal bravery without skill, constitutes the soldier, I ~~to the~~ towns are desirous of the honor of the first shot. Situated as Capt. Parker was, to have stood a moment with his company against the British, would

have commit the greatest fault; and if he is chargeable with any fault, it is in not retreating from the open ground near the Church, before the British troops arrived within the reach of Cannon shot. Hence he fell back to the woods or stone enclosures of the fields, while the British, advanced, he might have retired with same success, and on their approach towards Concord, have ambushed them to advantage. This mode of fighting would have given time for the militia of the neighbouring towns to collect and join him, which he retarded the march of the enemy. No doubt they would have reached Concord, and possibly destroyed the provisions stored; but a force would soon have assembled at that place, sufficient to check their further progress, and by getting into their rear, perhaps compelled them to surrender, before they could have been reinforced from Boston. The subsequent affair at Bennington is a case of this kind, and affords a useful lesson. An attempt to fight the enemy at Lexington, on open ground, with such an inferior numerical force, would have been nothing but the act of a madman.

and by no means flattering to the skill of the militia of Lexington.

Of the bravery of the militia of that town sufficient is however to establish their character for that quality, since with this, the people ~~of that town~~ there should rest satisfied, without placing Capt. Parker on open ground, in front of a vastly superior enemy, whose bare without equivoc and that of his men, could have produced no other than useless slaughter and ineffectual effort: Remembering that prudence is one of the first qualities of an officer, and that to expose his men without a probability of success, is contrary to military rules, and reprehensible in a commander.

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27 Cory's Library of Choice Literature.

To be published in weekly numbers containing 20 pages, with double columns, making 2 vol. annually of more than 520 8vo pages each vol. Price 5 dollars per an, in advance

The whole amount of matter furnished in a single year, will be equal to more than 40 vols of the common sized English duodecimo books, the cost of which will be at least 10 times the price of a year's subscription to the Library. This says the prospectus of Philadelphia July 19 1835. First No to issue on the 1st of October next.

The work to consist of the current lite-rature of Great Britain, including Biography, History, Travels, novels and Poetry. Recourse will also be had to the literary stores of Continental Europe, and translations from French, Italian or German, as the cases may be.

If the matter is wise selected the work will be cheap and valuable. A fine chance for young men, who can now have no excuse for ignorance or neither, mental barrenness. But Books are dull things to many, and notwith-standing their cheapness, we have some taciturn without social talents, or indeed any others of value.

The Weather

Saturday 12th December, an additional Snow; the first cold and dry, and strongly bare. Cattle wading out the Snows by those who are not provided with aqueducts — a great inconvenience to our farmers. Sleighing good — a cold winter thus far —

Meeting of Congress (1835)

28 Last monday, Dec 7th, Congress was to assemble at Washington, but we have nothing of the proceedings this day (at noon) the 12th. We are looking eagerly for the President's message, and not without some apprehensions in relation to our affairs with France. By some accounts in the papers it appears that she still refuses to discharge the debt we have against her, as ~~[illegible]~~ stipulated in a late treaty, and what course our Government since France in the case is yet uncertain. Without an abandonment of all the old rules which have governed the policy of nations, we must take measures to enforce the treaty. But should we

we adopt a new policy, and submit to the unparalleled conduct of that nation, what would be the consequence? Shall we be held in estimation by other nations, and will not such submission invite similar injustice from them: ~~and other nations~~ But shall we declare war with France? This would be an uncertain mode of redressing our wrongs, and probably distress us more than it would the French. Our country at this time is in a flourishing state; our agricultural manufactures and navigation are in the full tide of successful experiment, and our internal improvements are moving on with a rapidity unparalleled. Let a war commence and many of these branches of business must at once receive a check, and some of them be ruined, especially navigation; and the sufferings of our rich sea ports would be immense.

But are we prepared for war? not at all. Have some of our ports are fortified, but where are the men to defend them? Our little army

is

is ~~altogether~~ totally inadequate for defence, since our navy too small to contend with that of France. Should she send out a force disproportioned to her abilities, our ports might soon be blockaded, since with ten or fifteen thousand land troops, composed of her old veterans, our coasts ravaged, and our Seaboard towns lay under contribution or in ash as at their pleasure. But, it is sense we may raise an army of sufficient force for our defence — Be it so: but how ~~long~~ much time will it require to do this, and to fit it for the field? Experienced officers can answer this question.

But some of our warly patriots are say, we have a militia ready for the service. We would soon put to flight the tame vassals of the mercenaries of Europe. Vain assertion! ridiculous boast! fatal insanity! A few days service in the field, in front of a ~~[illegible]~~ close, hard army, would cure these patriots of their ~~insanity~~ folly, and teach them that untaught and brave

offered but feeble resistance, against that which is mechanized by service and discipline. Experienced officers, I think, were not disagree with me when I say, that 20,000 veterans, under an able commander, landed at Salem in Massachusetts, with the requisite artillery and a regiment of disciplined cavalry, would plunder, or lay in ashes, the Cities of Boston and Providence, and and proceed to New-London, if not to have again, in the face of all the militia force that could be brought against them in New England, and such an invading army would adventure safe and sure of success, from a coasting naval force, which should keep pace with it. This will no doubt appear a strange position, to men who believe that Concord and Bunker-Hill are proofs of the prowess of undisciplined men; forgetting that to drive in a detachment, or to ~~fight~~ shoot from behind works, is very different from a contest in the open field, where regular tactics alone have avail. Hence I believe that

the

the operation in the revolutionary war will prove the fallacy of my position?! Then I reply that nothing but the **presence** of the British forces and the inactivity of the Commanders, saved us from a conquest, in the early part of the war. Had the British government exerted all its energy against New England, the first or second year of the war, the contest would have ended in a short time, and the other states must have submitted.

Our present situation as a military nation is deplorable. The false notions we have imbibed as respects chesslone, have arisen from our long shame and parade of what we call a militia; this has in fact operated to eradicate almost every idea of ~~glory~~ war; since our eager pursuit of wealth, from trade and commerce and mechanic arts, has excluded to our exceeding, and indeed left us to care for nothing else.

A war with a powerful nation should be our last resort; and I am of opinion we had better suffer some injury

than to appeal to arms for redress; when we are sure to suffer much more than we can gain by it.

The proper course of Congress at this time, I think, would be to pass a non-intercourse law, and give up all trade with France, until she shall fulfil the terms of the treaty. If she resents this and chooses to fight us, we must put forth what strength we have, and do the best we can. She may distress us, but with the wide ocean between us, she cannot conquer our ~~faithful~~ free, spirited country. We have men enough and, provided they could be disciplined in the field & camp, they would form an army sufficient for our defence, and soon be able to cope with the veterans of France.

Besides a non-intercourse, let Congress authorize the President to call out a strong detachment from the militia, and put them into camps of instruction, under pay and rations, whenever the exigency shall require it. And it would be wise to employ

by

by some means that might be adopted, the well taught Cadets of West Point, to impart this instruction to the establishments which in the field good men can then be obtained but there will be a difficulty in filling the best offices. In many of the States they are elected to these places by the men they are to command, and with the exception of a few instances, such officers will not be able to introduce that sub ordination among them, which is absolutely requisite to command in a proper manner.

Another defect will be found in the General officers of the militia; many, or most, of whom have been raised to their stations without the requisite preparatory studies, or any real practice in camps. At the head of Division or Brigades most of them would be totally at loss at the very first step of duty in the field, and would soon see that all the empty show of tassels feathers and epaulettes, are which so much

much step is lined by militia, is intirely useless, and fitted rather for a ball room of ladies, than for the masculine employment of soldiers. Many no doubt possess the spirit of officers; but in general some sort of apprenticeship to their business, is necessary before they attempt to commence. Now and then a genius may appear who possess the elements of a General, by by a sort of intuition, and hardly seems to require previous instruction; but such cases are, and are not often to be found among militia officers whose principal employments lead to pursuits of a different character.

These remarks, present to my mind the importance of a new system of militia organization and training, very different from that now in sickly operation in the U. States.

Appropos. The message of the President to Congress, on the 4th instant, is at this moment received, from Mr. Grundy one member of Congress, and we

are gratified to find, that the subject of new organization of the militia is recommended to Congress. A classification is proposed. "Now whenever we are at peace, says the message, is the proper time to digest and establish a practical system. The object is certainly worth the experiment, and worth the expense. No one appreciating the blessings of a republican Government can object to his share of the burden which such a plan may impose. Indeed a moderate portion of the national funds could scarcely be better applied than in carrying into effect and continuing such an arrangement, and in giving the necessary elementary instruction."

The kind of expenditure a portion of the national funds is a proper one, and I think this is clear, the militia would feel a spring, and evince an energy which gratuitous service will never afford. No one, it is slatter, will object to his share of the burden in the militia! But we would

leave it to each individual to afford this shewe, by personal service or his money, as his inclination should dictate; because a sufficient number must at all times be found, ready for military service, when they see the treasury open for the support of themselves and their families. Let this be adopted, and we shall soon see an efficient militia in the United States.

On the subject of our affairs with France the message is full & mild, yet determined. It supposes that no part of the money due us by the treaty, is yet paid by that government. The message states that, "Not having any official communication of the intention of the French government, anxious to bring, as far as practicable, this unpleasant affair to a close, before the meeting of Congress, that you might have the whole subject before you, I caused our Envoys at Paris to be instructed to ask for the final determination of the French

French Government; and in the event of their refusal to pay the instalment now due, without further explanations, to "return to the U. States" The result has not reached ~~the~~ us; but is clearly expected. As soon as received it must be laid before Congress. Once thus stamped, the affair, a non-intercourse, and war, may follow. Let us then be prepared for whatever may be the result.

The message is of great length containing eleven columns of the National Intelligencer, in close print, and small type.

One other article in the message should be noted. It recommends the passage of a law that shall be valid under severe penalties, the circulation, in the Southern states, through the mail, of "incendiary" publications intended to instigate the slaves to insurrection. Once it suggests that it is the duty of the non-slaveholding States, to exercise their authority in suppressing what can is called to produce this evil. Is this

intended to suppress discussions on Slavery in our news-papers? A dangerous measure in a country, where the Press is free. Suppose we were to adopt the notions of the southern people in regard to slavery, and so with respect it in our papers, would not this have a tendency to rouse the slaves to acts of disaffection in the southern States? Could should we imbrace the doctrines of Gov. McDuffie of south Carolina, that an existency is necessary to secure republicanism (in some form) and that where black slavery exists, it is a substitute that will answer all the purposes? Case further, "that it will be fortunate for the non-slave holding states, if they are not, in less than a quarter of a century, driven to the adoption of a similar institution, (slavery) or to take refuge from robbery and anarchy, under a military dispotism". ~~Case~~ To cap the climax, this man professes to be a republican! Is he not, rather, mad, and ready for the straight Jacket?

The southern people, I trust, are

not yet ready to surrender their republicanism to southern aristocracy: and if equality of privileges, and the doctrine that all men are born free and equal, is to be expunged from our constitutions, to avoid "robbery and anarchy" then let us return to our old allegiance and with contrite hearts, crave pardon of the King of Great Britain, for our wicked separation. ~~from his government.~~

Often have we been told by the aristocracy of Europe, that no Nation could long exist under a republican Government. But who thought that this doctrine would have been broached by the Governor of a republican State, so soon as 1835? Surely we are fast approaching a "despotism". Let the people look to it.

We would ask President Jackson whether the doctrines of Gen McDuffie ought to be transmitted by mail, to the people of the northern States? and to recommend in a special message, a constitutional; ~~or a~~ ~~penalty~~ a

a law prohibiting our papers from transportation by mail, may perhaps pass at the present session of Congress, but we hint none of our Northern Governors will recommend similar measures

The press must remain unshackled – the people must have liberty to discuss all subjects, and if such discussion should interfere with what the people of the southern states call their rights, they may use the same mode to confute us. Freedom of discussion prohibited by law, will be a death blow to our liberty; ~~and~~ our constitutions will be no better than "Lilliputian ties"; and while we claim to be free, we shall wear the chains & bell, and when too late, find them heavier for us forbearance.

If the union cannot be preserved without the surrender of republican principles – without shackling our presses, then let the evil speak; and the southern people will soon suffer consequences which, heedless, they little anticipate.

Let it not be supposed from the foregoing, that I am in favor of immediate emancipation of the slaves - for this I think they are not fully ready to know and appreciate their rights they must first be instructed, and I would take measures to effect this. Let the black children be educated in common schools. Let them be taught that they are, of right, the germs of men, and in due time they will be fitted for self government. But no! this must not do - they must remain as they are, slaves to their aristocratic masters, who say this system will be true republicans, according to Gov. McDuffie, and those only who can synthetize its principles; while northern men, from a want of an aristocracy, will fall into anarchy and confusion, and in a few years settle down under a "despotism!" -

A few words more from this roaring Governors message.

"Domestic Slavery, therefore, instead of being a political evil, is the corner Stone of our republican Edifice.

NB

"No patriot who justly estimates our privileges, will contract the idea of emancipation, at any period however remote, or any condition of pecuniary advantage however favorable. I would as soon think of opening a negotiation for selling the liberty of the State at once, as for making any stipulations for the ultimate emancipation of our slaves. So deep is my conviction on this subject that if I were doomed to die immediately after recording these sentiments, I could say in all sincerity and under all the sanctions of Christianity and patriotism, God forbid that my descendants, in the remotest generations, should live in any other than a community having the institution of domestic slavery, as it existed among the patriarchs of the primitive church, and in all the free states of antiquity."

Slavery

~~Slavery [illegible] of [illegible]~~
~~Mr Duffie [illegible] [illegible] face the [illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~

Slavery then, is the corner stone of our Republican Edifice!

It has been said ~~that~~ this is an age of reason, and truly it must be acknowledged it is an age of discovery. We have surpassed our declaration of independence and the Bill of Rights ~~prefixed~~ to our Constitution, contained the elements of republicanism. But it seems Gov. McDuffie has penetrated deeper into the arcana of Government, and now made the discovery on which republics are founded - viz Slavery and Aristocracy. In what school this gentleman received his ~~ed~~ political education we are not precisely informed; - we have indeed heard of him as an artful dodger and a mulificator; but of his deep investigations, as a

political philosophers we are not yet informed. It seems however he has not been idle, for inaction would not have elicited the novelties principles he has brought forth once now, so boldly enforced. He prepares for himself and his disciples, a residence where the institution of domestic slavery is a component part of government — where there is a marked distinction between the higher and lower orders of mankind, for these he supposes do ~~and~~ naturally spring, and depreciates the system of equality established in the non-slave holding states, where "anarchy and confusion" must soon gain the ascendency, from the want of an autocracy, to have the laboring class of society within due bounds.

Truly our political sages, up to this time, have wandered in the paths

in the fields of imagination without
Steer or compass, come the system of
government they have established
in this land of equal rights, is
found to be based on laws counter
to those of the creator. Wonderful
perfection! profound re
search into the works of nature,
and the human mind! And all
this from a sort of S. Carolina
whose infant years have been
fostered and sustained by the
groans & sighs of the sable fe-
male from Africa, or her descend
ants, in sweet bondage.

"Slavery essential for the preser-
vation of republicanism"! Is Gov.
McDuffie aware, that in the
course of time, the black population
of the southern states may
produce a change of circumstan-
ces; - that they may, at length
gain the ascendancy, and enslave
their present "aristocratic masters
Should this happen, would he

still prefer a residence in a land, "having the institution of domestic slavery" for its political basis?

The Governor should not forget that his "Corner Stone", was once the foundation of the "political edifice in Algiers, where, no doubt, the humane masters of the galley slaves were not less tenacious of their rights, than the indispensable custodiancy of S. Carolina.

Let us suppose he had landed in that City, as a captive to one of its corsairs, and been chained to a galley, or put to some other menial service for life, under the lash of his masters; we think, in such a case, he would have duly appreciated the humanity & worth of the political doctrines he so earnestly urges, at this time, in his message to the S. Carolina legislature; and found by no equivocal experiment, the tender mercies of a "patriarchal" government, of an ancient people, who, if not of the Christian

Christendom, were well aware of the importance of the "corner stone" of Slavery, in their "political edifice". We might protract our remarks to a great length; but we take leave of Gov. McDuffie, not with the hope but with our fears, that the day is not far distant, when he and his adherents, may reap the seed sowed, which an increasing & increased black population, of his State, through the interposition of the Providence of a just God, will be enabled to shed down upon their worthless masters, in the way of retributive justice.

We incidently add, that we recommend to Gov. McDuffie a careful perusal of the 18th Query of Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, where Slavery is made the theme. Perhaps, however this work will not be permitted to circulate in the Slave holding States, after the plan recommended in the President's message, shall have passed into a law.

Cold Day.

29 December 11th. a very cold day; so that our sledders found it difficult, with all their exertions, to avoid freezing (actual) although considerable exercise (walking) Since the first snow, the weather has been uniformly cold and dry, but the snow not deep — sleighing excellent.

The general temperature of a place depends on its latitude and the declination of the sun; but while these are the same there is a great difference in the temperature of different years; hence we must look for other causes to account for this variation, and whether any probable theory can be adopted is doubtful. It has been the general belief that clearing of the country, & its native woods, must render the winters warmer, and it is certain that we have less snow than formerly, and that the winters are more variable. But it is also certain that we have as cold weather, occasionally, as in early times. The last winter is an instance: at no time within my memory, has the thermometer sunk so low; though it

it must be remembered that thermometers were not much used in this country 60 or 70 years ago, and therefore we may make a wrong estimate in comparing different years.

We may indeed assign causes for the different temperature of places in the same latitude; such as prevailing winds, the direction and inclination of surface; but the question why the temperature should not remain the same at these places is not explained.

Shall we have recourse to the internal heat of the Earth, which modern philosophers assert can be proved to exist? If we look to this source for temperature, the question still presents why this difference in different years? They perhaps will say that central fires are more vigorous one year than another; and in reply I would ask, for this cause.

For shame it is easy to suggest theories on this subject; but difficult to establish them from the difference of different seasons, yet this difference remains unsatisfactorily explained.

In all civilized communities there always is, and probably always must be, a portion of the people without property, and having families to support, and many times in extreme want of the necessaries of life. In a country where the winters are severe as those in New England, and especially where fuel is becoming scarce, something seems necessary for the amelioration of their condition, in addition to our pauper laws. One source of their suffering is the want of comfortable dwelling houses, which may be erected at a small expense; and in reflecting on the subject it appears to me that the following may be adopted to remedy the evil in our manufacturing towns.

Let small houses of one or two moderate sized rooms, be built in our steep side hills, by making an excavation in the earth, to southern aspect to be chosen if possible; three of the sides, if not the other, to be constructed with rough stones, like our cellars, and the interstices filled with

with lime mortar; the chimney placed against the wall towards the hill, and a small cellar may be made in the same manner beyond this wall, access to which may be had through a door on the side of the chimney. The house to be of one story, and covering, where the builder is not able to ~~procure with~~ shingle, with good pine slabs. A small quantity of timber will be sufficient for the roof & floors, since the government will consume for staving such lights as the family may prepare. Excavations of earth to be formed on the two sides, in such a manner as to turn off the water, and well covered with good sod, a drain may be necessary at the back side of the building for the same purpose.

The west front of such buildings would be durable, and they should be so constructed that the timber of the roof and ~~ground~~ floors, may be taken out when decayed, & replaced, with new materials.

A cottage of this construction

would be cheap and within the abilities of any industrious and frugal man, who is able to labor, and during the coldest winter furnish a comfortable residence. In the summer season, in the case of a southern aspect, the sun might be rather too much spent; but to remedy this, small wooden screens might be placed on each side near the outer end, and the same would at all times be necessary at the front.

For the prosecution of agricultural time, as well as other business upon an extended scale, laborers and others be wanted. Might it not then be good economy for those who carry it on, to erect the buildings I have proposed, and rent them on reasonable terms to the laborers they employ, receiving the rent out of their wages? By adopting such a plan, families would always be found to occupy the cottages, and if those only of correct habits, those who have

avoided the destructive practice of using ardent spirits to excess, were to be admitted into them, good labourers might at times be found for any business. It might also be a good method, when engaging such labourers, to stipulate that they should be annually furnished with a certain quantity of fuel, to be accounted for out of their wages.

The only objection to the plan here proposed will be, that industrious & faithful labourers cannot always be found. This may sometimes be the case; but will not the same difficulty be met in hiring labourers into our houses. The remedy in such cases, is to dismiss them, and the same may be done when they occupy the cottage of the employer. My object is to furnish a comfortable place of resource for the families of honest and faithful people, and those who have not these qualifications must expect to remain miserable.

our village furnishes favorable ground for a new street, which if laid out would offer a great number of sites for buildings and add much to the population of the place. I mean the ground at the easterly end of our home lots, east of the street, extending about a mile from Elijah's Brook on the south to the town of the road, beyond the village over Plum Swamp Brook, on the north. The east side of this street would furnish many sites for the cottages I have proposed, and both sides many for more elegant buildings. Here laborers and mechanics would find places for their abode, as well as for their business, since our village be relieved from the present dearth of the latter.

Since we are in want of water privileges, which are sure to call in various sorts of mechanics where they are found; but there are other mechanic arts, which might be carried on here advantageously, without water machinery, which might be enumerated; and which may turn

in

in the Commonwealth, now produce; de-
pending on distant markets for the
sale of their articles.

The suggestions I have made may
be considered, by some of our old
farmers as visionary, ... and fruit-
less. They may be so; but they will
not, I believe, disagree with me when
I say, it is time to rouse a spirit of
enterprise in the town, and to en-
courage some of the manufacturing arts ~~which~~ from
which other towns, in the state are
reaping profits of no small amount.
The profits of our rich alluvial gar-
den, owing to its distance from the
great mart of our Country, are
small, and by no means com-
mensurate with the labor of
cultivating it. Our whole ma-
sweat and toil, much beyond the
people of many other towns, are
receive but small profits; in
comparison with them.

In conclusion - Should a Rail Road be
constructed through this town, from Vermont
to Hartford, the new street I have pro-
posed, would be its direct route,
& retain many of its advantages. —

31 Dr. Channing on Slavery, a work of 165 pages has just appeared in Boston and is said to be a powerful appeal to the good sense of independent minds.

The following are his remarks on those who passed the late Resolves in Faneuil Hall, ~~the~~ Citizens of Boston.

"I see the North giving way to the influence of the South. In some perhaps many of our recent "resolutions" a spirit has been manifested at which, if not tame, our children will blush. Not long ago there were rumours that some of our citizens wished to suppress by law, all discussion, all expression of opinion on slavery, and to send to the south such members of the community as might be claimed as instigators of insurrection. Such encroachments on rights could not of course be endured. We are not so fallen. Some echoes of the old eloquence of liberty still comes down to us from our fathers. Some inspiration of heroism and freedom still issue from Faneuil Hall.

"Were we to yield to such encroachments, would not the soil of New-England, so trodden down by freemen, heave and quake under the steps of her degenerate sons. We are not prepared for this. But a weak yielding time, for which we seem prepared, may be the beginning of concessions which we shall one day bitterly rue". page 153

"If the Union can be preserved only by the imposition of chains on speech and the press, by prohibition on a subject involving the most sacred rights and dearest interests of humanity, then Union would be bought at too high a rate; then it would be changed from a virtuous bond into a league of crime and shame". page 157

We hope our Boston friends who lent their aid in the late mob as much as the editors of the papers in that city, who indirectly justified the proceedings, will read Dr Channing's Book, and reflect on their monstrous conduct; and

learn that our liberty is not to be ~~tamely~~ bartered for bales of cotton and tierces of Rice, or other southern productions. Let them reassemble in Faneuil Hall, and if possible elicit a sparkle of the spirit which once flashed the light of liberty upon its walls; or if they find this impossible, let them, with a dash of the pen, erase from our constitution the Bill of Rights, which declares all men to be born free and equal; and subscribe to the political doctrine of Gov. McDuffie, that slavery is the "corner stone" of republicanism, and the only security against "anarchy and confusion" which must soon prevail in the northern States, from the want of an aristocracy.

If this shall be the language of the patriots of Boston, we must it will find no echo, in the interior of New-England — no such "indian yielding tone" can be heard there. Our people are laborers, yet free, and they can manage their farms with wages rather than with the lash

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Letter post marked Boston Dec. 32 - 13 - 1835. (anonymous).

Sir. You are respectfully requested, to cause a petition praying that the law authorizing capital punishment, may be abolished, or ameliorated (as may meet your approbation,) to be circulated for signatures in your vicinity, and presented to the next Legislature.

Copy - no signature.

This subject has been before the Legislature several times within the past three or four years, and failed of success. In the last for revising the statutes, it was heard, opposed, and so far as relates to treason once passed the house, but was afterwards reversed by the house, and the crime is now capital.

The scheme was to confine the culprit in the state prison for life, and I voted in its favor,

It was argued by some, that this was a crime of the most heinous nature, and deserved the most rigid punishment; but I did not so view it. Treason may be committed in various ways and many times without evil intention to do an evil. In Shays' insurrection there were many young men, who thought they were performing a commendable service in reforming the errors of the government, and knew not that they were committing a crime. Would it then have been good policy to have executed them? The fact of their being pardoned, ~~were~~ including even their leaders, proves that the government thought otherwise. And in the later rebellion in Pennsylvania, the result was the same. Hence it is evident the people do not consider the crime of of the highest nature, and to me it appears that confinement in prison for life is as far as we ought to go.

But

But whether all capital punishments should be abolished is a serious question. This day, Decr 19th, a condemned criminal is to be executed at Dedham for arson in the night-time, a case of the most aggravated nature. Humane people regret the necessity of the punishment, but they are fearful that other punishments would not secure the community from its ~~frequent~~ reiteration. Thus, with highway robbery with a dangerous weapon, treason and murder, I believe, are the only crimes now capital by our Statutes. Ought they to be changed for imprisonment for life in the State Prison?

I have given my opinion on treason; but remain in suspense on the others. Were it certain that life imprisonment would be as effectual in preventing the commitment of crimes now capital, I should not hesitate to adopt it; & this I am aware, cannot be positively determined but by experiment.

Murder, which is understood to be the killing of a human being, with what the law calls, malice aforethought seems to carry with it a degree of depravity which renders the criminal dangerous, and the lives of peaceful men insecure, even in their castles. But the killing without malice aforethought, is not considered murder, but a crime affording it, and subject to high punishment, according to the nature of it. In some cases however the practice of courts is to suppose the malice to exist, when in fact it does not: as where one shall discharge a musket into a body of men and kills one, without intending to injure any particular one; but this appears to me, might rather be termed recklessness, yet, perhaps, equally criminal with the malice the law supposes in murder. But without laying much stress on terms, the intention of the act ought to decide its criminality, and as this is not always in the power of courts, the question arises whether there ought not be degrees

of murder, punishable by death or otherwise, as circumstances may dictate? And in all cases where there is doubt of the intention, a punishment short of death should be inflicted. Where the killing proceeds from recklessness the state's prison seems to be the proper place of punishment. Perhaps however, the distinctions I have made, do not in fact differ materially from those now in practice in our courts. My wish is to pay the criminality on the real intention of the criminal

I am aware that a man may kill with an intention to do good; but in cases of this kind, there must be a sort of derangement, since this has been found in religious enthusiasts, who fancied they were acting under the impulse of Deity. To secure the community against such men, perhaps confinement in the State prison is the proper course. But where the intention to kill is beyond a doubt, and the criminal has arrived at an age of reflection; in which common sense

and common information, would have taught him the turpitude of the crime, the principle of self-defence may require a capital punishment, or at the removal from society. Some have say the advocates of the Penitentiary system the State's Prison is the proper place.

In case of the abolition of capital punishments, there should, I think, be one exception. The prisoner for life, who make use of every means in his power to liberate himself, even to the killing of his keepers, where there is the least probability of effecting his object by that means. Suppose he kills, but fails in his attempt to escape, his punishment would not be different from what it was before. In such a case all, I think, must agree, that death ought to follow, as the only security.

The right of community to take life, is doubted by many. If it be true that community have not this right, then all wars even defensive are wrong. Indeed we should have no right to defend ourselves

of attacked by an enemy, where the consequence would be the death of one of them. But the advocates of the doctrine, I suppose, would not grant at this extent. While they admit the right of defense against an enemy, they will say, it is so, because we possess no other means of getting rid of the evil; but in the case of an individual offender we have ample power to confine him, and prevent further depredations. There is an important distinction it must be admitted, yet I think it does not prove that capital punishments are wrong in principle.

In a country of laws legally enacted by the people or their agents, all are bound to obey them: and if, for instance, a member of such community, shall choose to disregard them, and commence a deliberate system of house burning, or highway robbery, to support himself by the plunder he may obtain, self defense will justify the community in stopping his career by a capital punishment, or

or by any other means, at its option. Humanity, no doubt, will plead for the milder means; but might will adopt those it deems most effectual for security. The question then resolves itself into one of sufficiency; and I think nothing but the experiment can decide this sufficiency;

I am not disposed to oppose its trial, when a large majority in the Legislature shall favor its adoption. If adopted, and found insufficient, it may be set aside by future Legislatures, and resort be had to the old system. But let me add, that I am not without fears, that the experiment would convince us of the inefficiency of the project.

I close with an anecdote. While I have the charge of the Gaol in the County of Franklin, no Sheriff, a culprit was committed for trial. He had been an old offender against the laws, and twice or thrice ~~[illegible]~~ sentenced to the State Prison, and had served out his time. He was

offence was the treachery and foul
ness of crime. In a course of con
versation with him, I confess my
surprise, that after having been so
often detected and punished, he
should persist in his dangerous
course. He reply was, that he
had sometimes thought he was fated
to the course he pursued and
therefore could not avoid it. He
was shrewd and discerning and
whether he really believed in the
doctrine of fatalism I may much doubt
tho he applying to his motives, but
from the pulmonary quarter. Suppose
the punishment for the crime
for which you are committed, were
death or death, would you have
been guilty of it? He instantly
replied, That would have altered
the case.

I leave it to the politician to
make his comments.

Note. I am informed that the plan
of abolishing capital punishments,
is to be confirmed in the approach-
ing Legislature, and that petitions
for this purpose will be multiplied.

33. Robert Rantoul Jr. of Gloucester. 95

From the Essex Register.

The *Gloucester Democrat* lately contained a long rigmarole story about the grand effect of the new "Denocratic State organization, as arranged by members of the Legislature last winter"—attributing the vast increase of *the patent democracy*, the recent election, so much boasted of by that and other similar journals, to that organization. The plain meaning of all which was, as we understood it, that the writer of the said article, *the immortal champion of the radicals, the great orator of the patent Democracy*, and the great editor of the little Democrat,—who assumes to manage all the concerns of the "Democracy," in and about the Legislature, was himself entitled to all the glory of *almost* revolutionizing old Massachusetts!

Extract of a letter from a member of the Massachusetts Legislature.

To the Editors of the N. Y. Eve. Post.

"Our 'extra session' of the Legislature has just terminated; and after a tedious sitting of more than two months we have left our revised Code" pretty much as we found it. We had too many *conservatives* among us to admit any radical change in our laws. *Imprisonment for Debt* contracted prior to 1834 is still maintained. The law monopoly, the odious militia system, the anti-republican inequalities of the taxation law, the sanguinary provisions of the criminal code, still exist. The attempt to reduce the large and disproportionate salaries of our public officers failed, except in two or three instances. Among those who have distinguished themselves in vigorous and persevering efforts for salutary reform in these particulars, Robert Rantoul, Jr. of Gloucester, deserves honorable mention.—Nominally a whig, and consequently differing upon some points from this gentleman, I may be expected to speak of him with no undue bias of partiality. Looking into our legislative *menagerie*, while some exciting topic was under discussion, you would notice a slightly-framed young man—carelessly dressed, in comparison with the dandyism which represents degenerate Boston—pale, dark and thought-worn—watching intently the progress of debate. Suddenly you find him on his feet—ten to one he commences with an appeal to the authority of the Constitution—he calls upon the House to beware how they trample on the Bill of Rights, or sanction the continued violation of the plainest principles of liberty and justice. All eyes are turned towards him—he has secured the attention of the legislative hundreds—news paper readers; sleepers and all—he is going on, like the storms which sweep over his own Cape Ann, shrill, loud, impetuous—radical as truth, uncompromising as honesty. His fine intellectual head is thrown back over his left shoulder—his sallow cheek kindles and glows with excitement—his right hand (his left is thrust rather ungracefully into his pantaloons pocket) flung ever and anon impetuously forward, or shaken at his antagonist with a single extended finger, *a la mode* John Randolph. Wit, sarcasm, retort, invective, earnest appeals to the innate perceptions of natural justice, expressions of entire confidence in the ultimate decisions of the people, follow each other in rapid succession. He ceases—and you see all over the House a mustering of the conservative forces. Half a dozen lawyers spring on their feet, one after the other, to sustain their shaken and half-demolished positions. Where argument fails, then an appeal is made to *party* feeling; the whigs are rallied; the measure advocated by the radical must be decided, not on its own merits, but on party grounds. Ask who the man is who has excited all this commotion, and you will probably be told by some ancient stickler for old abuses—some foppish scion of the aristocracy, "That's the radical and disorganizer, RANTOUL." Yet this man, misrepresented as he is by the political opponents, sneered at as he is by such *genteel* ruffians as the editors of the Boston Gazette, who like Shakspeare's Boult, hold a place,

———"For which the paindest fiend
Of Hell would not in reputation change."

and associated as he is, like Trinculo, with certain "strange bedfellows" of his own party, is an honor and an ornament to Massachusetts. Not one of her young men gives fairer promise of usefulness and honorable fame. His speeches during the session of last winter against incorporations—and during the one which has just terminated in favor of the abolition of capital punishment, for eloquence and intellectual power, have seldom if ever been surpassed in either branch of our Legislature."

The Gloucester Democrat from which we have cut the forgery, is published in that town, and has reached its 30th number of the 2d Vol. It is intended to support the Jackson party & is called a general paper. In the Act, it is supposed, numerous made of the matter inserted in it, though we are informed he is not its editor, nor has any interest in it.

The Essex Register is of an opposite character, and is often seen in its remarks upon the Aristocrat. and the search from that paper is of this kind.

The extract from the letter of a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, is said to be the production of a Writer, who is in opposition to the Aristocrat. If this be the fact, he exhibits a spirit, quite unworthy of his dignity. The portrait he has drawn of the young gentleman, is ingenuous & strikingly correct. Those often listened to his speeches in the house, and without subscribing to his

views of the Democratic party, have been pleased with his independent and astute remarks. The term radicalism applied to him, is extended also to all who are in favor of a reduction of the salaries of certain officers of government, as well as to those who are for correcting the system of laws which have been in force in this Commonwealth.

The term is intended as one of reproach, and seems to have originated in Boston; for we hear little of it in the country. It might have been applied with equal propriety to the promoters of our revolution, and perhaps was thus applied; but they were not intimidated at names. When it was first proposed to construct rail-roads, and substitute steam engines for horses, in the transportation of the produce of the country, the proposition of stages and baggage wagons was ridiculed. Nevertheless we continue these improvements, without fear of the reproach of heretical notions. Never also radical

ism when the Ptolemaic system was set aside for that of Copernicus, yet this astronomer was forced to broach it to the world; and when the common Dactrine of the times persuaded to believe in the demonstration of its truth, by Galileo, and when was to force him to abjure it, the system held its grounds, and at length was adopted, notwithstanding its radicalism.

The projects of Mr Rantoul may be utopian — they may be formulated on the supposition that men are more enlightened and more honest than they really are; but if this is the fact, it cannot be seen that he is wrong in thus without asserting I should give him credit for all his patriotism to correct any abuses that may exist in the laws, and to render them strictly consistent with pure republicanism.

I assume his views of the policy of the United States government; we are at variance with him, but as a legislator we think him honest in his attachment to a high order

34. An Inquiry into the Character & tendency of the American Colonization and Anti-Slavery Societies.
By William Jay
Second Edition Stereotyped
pp 206. New-York 1835

At a time when moral courage seems to have become a rare quality among our eminent men, and "a weak yielding tone" is inducing a benefit stupor among the people of the northern States, it is cheering to find that we have a few patriots who have not sunk under its influence.

Mr Jay, who we understand is a son of the late President John Jay of New-York & formerly a County Judge, comes forward in this cause, honorable to himself and his country; and, uninterrupted by mobs or their organs, the obsequious pimpes of some of our elegant cities, boldly probes to the bottom the system of Slavery, as it now exists in the southern states. His work is divided into two parts, the first containing 5 chapters,

with an Introduction, treats principally upon the plans and designs of the Colonization society; and by a able analysis, shows most conclusively, that it is a scheme to get rid of the free blacks, and has no relation to emancipation of the southern slaves.

After quoting largely from the speech and official reports, the author sums up with the following decisive language.

"We have now examined the means by which the society proposes to effect the removal of slavery, and we trust we have shown them either worthless or worse than impracticable. Of the impracticability of this scheme, its only objection, the friends of humanity and religion would not be called on, as they now are, to meet it with unmeaning hostility — to labor without rest, & cease without weariness, for its entire prostration. Alas, though powerless for good, it is mighty for evil; and in its beneficent influence is locking multitudes of good and well intentioned

more, unconciously to countenance doctrines and measures, necessarily tending to perpetuate slavery and all its abominations in our land. This is an expedient, that ought not hastily to be made, nor hastily to be believed.

"Something that Colonization could, in the course of ages, eventuate slavery, ought not, therefore, to reject every means of shortening the sufferings of the Slave, by hastening his liberation? But colonizationists, not content with insisting on the efficiency of their own plan, discourage and oppose every other. Now should their plan prove abortive, after the lapse of centuries, their influence in preventing the adoption of any other, will have been fatal, as far as it may have gone, to the freedom of millions." p. 94

Part 2d, of the work, treats of the Anti-Slavery Society, and is entitled in 11 Chapters, in which its utility is proved, and the groundless objections raised against it, set aside. Throughout the whole, we think the ground taken by the author, is ably defended; and that no humane mind can

can read it without shuddering at the cruelties of the system now in full force, in a land claiming to be free. The following is a just sketch of ~~the~~ one of the features of the heart rending system, which is so obstinately upheld by many who claim the right to enslave ~~the~~ African race. In the preceding pages the author having noticed the laws of most of the slaveholding states so far as they relate to slavery, concludes.

"Such is American slavery – a system which elapses with the hearts of the free, over whom dominion has been given to man an intelligent and accountable being, the instant his Creator has breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Over this infant, his original property, no mother has a right to exercise – no father may guide his feeble steps, check his turbulent appetites and train him for future usefulness, happiness and glory. Torn from his parents and sold

in

"in the market, he soon finds himself laboring among strangers under the lash of the driver, and his task augmenting with his declining strength. Day after day and year after years, is he driven to the cotton or sugar fields with the ox to the furrows. No hope of recovered liberty lightens his toil — the subject of insult, the victim of brutality, the laws of his country afford him no redress — his wife, such only in name, may at any moment be dragged from his side — his children, his only of his misery and degradation, and last articles of merchandise — his mind, stupified by oppressors, is wrapped in darkness — his soul, no man careth for it — his body, worn with stripes and toil, is at length committed to the earth like the brute that perisheth." page 139.

Reflections of this kind are not unfrequent in Mr Jay's ... Book, and the author might have harrowed up our feelings by a recital of numerous cases of individual suffering to illustrate the evils of slavery; but this

he avowed, and founded his objections to it, on the laws enacted to uphold and perpetuate the horrible system.

On Slavery by authority of Congress in the District of Columbia, the Jury has exhibited a scene appalling in the highest degree. He quotes from a speech of Mr Miner a member of the house from Pennsylvania, made in that body; from which it appears, that in the last two years, previous to 1829, 742 coloured persons have been committed to the public prison in Washington - not for crime - no not one; 452 were lodged in the N.S. prison by slave traders, for safekeeping prior to ... exportation. The residue on suspicion, real or affected, of being fugitive slaves; and if not claimed as such, were by authority of Congress, to be sold as slaves for life, to raise money to pay their jail fees. (page 154.)

It appears also from Mr Miner's speech, that the trade of

in black slaves ~~was~~ continued at that time with its utmost vigor, and that several vessels were constantly employed in exporting "likely servants" of both sexes, from 12 to 25 years of age, from that port to New-orleans, and other places on the Mississippi; and this hymn licensed for 400 chattels to deal in human flesh, under the sanction of the language of the U. States!!!

*Connecticut boast of their constitutional liberty; but, who will say, after the exhibition of this picture, he is aware of his government?

The singular transaction in the State of Connecticut, in relation to Miss Crandall's school at Canterbury, is fully sifted by the Jury; and the charge of Judge Daggett to the jury on her trial, is animadverted upon, with keen asperity, and the judge is pronounced, in a situation by no means enviable.

The late message of Gov. McDuffie to the Legislature of S. Carolina, was not before the Jury when he wrote his inquiry. Such a clause

must

* See Note at page 110

ment would have afforded him a fertile field of matter. But extracts are given from the messages of other Governors of that state not much less extraordinary and anti-republican than Gov. McDuffie's (page 83).

The work of Mr Jay comes before the public, at a time when it is calculated to do much good; and it is hoped it will check the mobs of our cities, and secure to posterity, the liberty of free discussion — the corner stone of our republic. The Book should be in the hands of every family in the northern States.

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35 On page 83, we noticed Dr Channing's Book on Slavery; we have since carefully perused the work throughout, and find it worthy of the author. It is comprised in 8 Chapters, with an Introduction and a few notes appended at the end. It treats of property & rights & shows that men cannot be considered as property. The relevancy

is ingenuous and clear; but to me it appeared like proving self evident propositions. The slave holder will consent to the positions, generally, but he will reply, that the Negroes are an inferior race of beings created for slaves to the whites; or at least, that they are not citizens of the U. States, as has been decided by Judge Daggett of Connecticut.

The Dr shows the Evils of Slavery — replies the arguments drawn from a few passages of Scripture, supposed to favor it — shows the means for removing it, and then treats of abolition, and abolition societies, and the duties of the free States in relation to emancipation.

Of Colonization, he says "I believe that to rely on it for this object [the removal of Slavery] would be equivalent to a resolution to perpetuate the evil with out end". An obvious truth, now begining to be known in the Northern States.

The

The work is written with much caution & reserve: still irritation & heat is from time to time discovered in our part of the freedom of discussion, once the foundation of the freedom of the press, which it notes to be the foundation of our liberties.

In stating the inducements to engage in the work, the Editor says.

"Nothing but a feeling, which I could not escape, of the need of such a work at this moment, has induced me to fix my thoughts on so fruitful a subject. The few last months have increased my solicitude for the country. Public sentiment has seemed to me to be losing its healthfulness and vigor. I have seen symptoms, bidding fair of the old Spirit of liberty. Sensible opinions have seemed to gain ground among us. The faith of our Fathers in free institutions has waxed faint, and is giving place to despair of human improvements. I have perceived a disposition to decide abstract rights, to speak

of freedom as a chasm, once of a fabric on governments as built on sand. I have perceived a faint heartedness in the cause of human rights. The condemnation, which has been cast on abolitionists, has seemed to lie ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ing into acquiescence in slavery. The sympathies of the community have been turned from the slave to the master. The impious doctrine that human laws can repeal the Divine, can convert unjust and oppressive power into a moral right, has more and more tinctured the style of conversation and the press. With these and solemn views of society, I could not be silent; and I thank God, amidst the consciousness of great weakness & imperfection, that I have been able to offer this humble tribute, this sincere, though feeble testimony, this expression of heart felt allegiance to the cause of Freedom, Justice and Humanity.

This work, in conjunction with

Judge Jay's on the same subject as timely laid before the Public; and if they fail to raise the people to a due sense of the tremendous evils of Slavery, as it exists in the southern States, using, indeed, "despair of human improvements", and erase from our constitutions the fundamental principle, that all men are born ~~free and~~ equal, which we had supposed was the essence of our republican institution.

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34 Note A. (page 105) This will commence, the journey is carried by land as well as by water. Slave-Coffles are formed at the prisons in the District, and thence set off on their dreary journey into the interior, literally in Chains. The factory is a description given by a gentleman who met one of these Coffles on the road in Kentucky. "I observed about 40 black men all chained together in the following manner:- each of them was hand-cuffed, and they were arranged

in rank and file. A chain, perhaps 40 feet long, was stretched between the two ranks, to which short chains were joined, which connected with the hand-cuffs. Behind them were I suppose 30 women in double rank; the couples tied hand to hand". These coffles pass the very Capitol in which are assembled the Legislators by whom they are authorized, and over whose heads is floating the broad banner of the Republic, too justly, Alas! in such instances, dishonored by an English satirist as

"The freedom flag that proudly waves,
In splendid mockery o'er slavery's slaves."

Page 159.

We are very piously singing out our missionaries to the dark & benighted corners of the Earth, to dispense the gospel and ameliorate the condition of the heathen; and our sympathies are alive to the barbarous immolation of the Hindoo widow; yet in this land, we find monsters in human shape, who quite coolly ask, "what have we to do with

slavery

slavery and its coffles? The right to hold slaves in the southern States is guaranteed by the Constitution, and of course we have no right to say, what plans they shall adopt to carry their slavery into effect, so long as they let us alone"! But the heart, not steled by such scenes as have been described, will not cease to beat with accelerated motion, in the cause of human suffering, wherever found; nor can any circumstances "convert the just and opposite power into moral right!" We call on the friends of God and man, to look to the heart rending subject, and interpose every legal restraint and moral suasion within their power; and never to cease exertions until our country is freed from the damning sin which now rests upon it, and is sinking us to the lowest degradation in the eyes of the civilized world.

Great

37 Great Fire in New York City

At 9 o'clock, on Wednesday evening, the 16th of December (1835) a fire broke out in the triangle formed by Wall, William and Pearl Streets, and the number of buildings consumed is stated to be 674. A fierce wind prevailed from the N.W. and the weather was so cold that the engines could not work, from the congelation of the water. The loss is immense, perhaps greater than at any previous fire in the United States.

The fire department, it is stated, is well regulated in that City, and probably all the usual precautions have been taken to insure a supply of water; but reservoirs are exposed to freezing, if not placed deep in the ground. For insuring a sufficient supply of water, the multiplication of wells in thick cities, would be a good precaution; the water often would always be found much above the point of congelation, and if speedily conveyed to the engines, might be thrown upon the conflagrated buildings, in the coldest weather.

Daniel Webster. In a letter from this gentleman, in answer to one addressed to him by an intemperance committee of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, he has given his sentiments of the Masonic society, condemning it in unequivocal terms, as dangerous to the general cause of civil liberty and good government. "Under the influence of this conviction", he says, "it is my opinion that the future administration of all such oaths and the imposition of such obligations, should be prohibited by law".

It is to be regretted that Mr. Webster has not earlier given his opinions to the public, which he was invited to do, by the assemblyman of Massachusetts, two Nine years ago. At that time his opinion would have evinced more moral courage, in the minds of his friends as much as his enemies, than at this day, when the monster, mummery, has been, in some degree, deprived of its poisonous fangs. The battle

with this murder has been long and severe; but without the aid of her auxiliaries, she would have been put hors de combat, long before this time. We are, however, rejoiced to receive Mr. Webster into our ranks, and in our future operations, he may afford important aid.

Having thus expressed his opinion of the evils of masonry, why should a continuous hesitate in supporting him as a candidate for the Presidency? Of his talents for the office we are all convinced, and no one can doubt of the sincerity of his opposition to masonry. Shall the support he has received from masons cause them allies, the ~~[illegible]~~ prejudice us against him? I hope not. It is true we have received much abuse from that vindictive ordinary party; but has Mr Webster been accepting in this abuse? If so, then his declaration to the Pennsylvania Antimasons is false and deceptive; but we are ~~not~~ not prepared to believe this! ~~[illegible]~~ It is

It is said he cannot be elected. I hope think. Let us try, and if we fail whatever the consequence. We shall have acted consistently with our principles, and taught our opponents that these and not men are our pole star

If we oppose Mr Webster, our opponents may say, and with some plausibility, "you have some other object in view than opposition to measures - a candidate of your principles has been found and you refuse him". Should we not then be charged with the same inconsistency, we in justice to ~~our opponents~~ they when they rejected Mr Wirt. It seems to me the cases are alike & that we could make but a feeble plea for our conduct.

But it said by dividing the northern votes, Mr White may be the highest candidate, and that between him and Mr Van Buren we ought not to hesitate for long a non slave holding

candidate. Were this certain the argument would have some force; but this cannot be determined until the election is over; and I think we should act consistently in pursuing the course with masonic principles should dictate, the selection of an antimason.

This said Mr Van Buren is no mason; but are we sure he is opposed to masonry? Have we been left to have conjecture, and before we can give him our support it appears to me antimasons should require a satisfactory expression of his sentiments as they relate to Mr Webster. Should this be done, and his answer prove similar to that of Mr Webster, our selection of him as a candidate ought to depend on other circumstances: we should look to the probable course of his politics. But should he with holds his expression of his opinion of masonry, we ought to abandon him at once.

The right of Mr Webster to reply to the ~~application~~ misapprehension of the antimasons

of Massachusetts has excited a suspicion that he is hostile to them. Be it so. Ought we then to reject him after we are convinced of his hostility to masonry, and would even ~~[illegible]~~ prohibit the future administration of its oaths and obligations by law? If hostile to Massachusetts antimasons, he is not so to their principles. Other causes may hence produce an unfavorable opinion of them; he may object to some of their proceedings, though ~~[illegible]~~ I think without a shadow of foundation, yet we ought not to oppose him because he has personal objections to us. Two persons may agree on general principles, and yet be at variance on others; and no one can command the unqualified esteem of his neighbor, though he may endeavor to merit it. Want of mutual esteem in such cases, is rather a misfortune than a crime.

The recollections with which Mr Webster replies to the antimasons

of Pennsylvania and his approbation of their course, as we suspect, when taken and in his speech in the Senate of the U.S. it must be granted furnish some ground of suspicion that he is not altogether friendly to the anti masons of Massachusetts. The conclusion I should draw from this fact, would be, that even great minds are not always free from unfounded and ~~groundless~~ unreasonable prejudices; and that Mr Webster in this case, has suffered himself to be misled by them.

As respects the nomination of Mr Webster for the presidency, there appears to be a difference of opinion amongst anti masons; part of ~~them~~ whom are for Mr Van Buren, though I believe a majority are opposed to the system of policy he would adopt. While we thus disagree, let us endeavour to form unbiased judgments and act accordingly; but let us not lose sight of the great object which first brought us to act together. I mean the total prostration and extinction of one of the many pernicious combinations that ever was formed against the rights of the great body of the people. Our object

which I have pursued with unremitting zeal for more than nine years; and for which I trust I shall continue to labor, for the ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~years~~ time left for my feeble faculties to exert themselves.

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39 The Weather. Friday 25 Dec. from a steady series of cold and dry days, from the first snow, the weather, has changed to fog & sleet, & we look for a breakup. Our rivers have been firmly bridged with arctic materials, and even a Rob would ~~[illegible]~~ have found it difficult to render himself comfortable under snow embankments. But notwithstanding this prognostic atmosphere our farmers have replenished their wood yards, and furnished some of the necessary materials to the non-holding team estates. Great inconveniences, however, have been felt from want of water, and in some instances, not a drop has been furnished from wells for our cattle

cattle, and resort has been had to our brooks which fortunately have kept us from ice. Whether Boreas will give us more auspicious weather in the months of January & February, is yet to be seen; but if the old adage is true, "when winter comes in like a Lion, it will go out like a lamb", may we not look for lofty flowery weather?

The prospect for assembling our Legislature is encouraging, and from the signs of the times, we may look for a session of high temperature. Mr Everett comes into office at a crisis, which will call for all his skill and firmness, in conducting our political ship; but we believe he will be found a skilful commander, and shun the hidden rocks that lie in our course. Should he shape his course by the new Southern chart, we think frequent Lunars, will be necessary for correcting the dead reckoning. May he conduct our ship through all perils, and bring it safe to its destined Port.

40 Mortality among young People who have emigrated from Deerfield, within about a year past: viz Dwight Howland, Springfield
Elijah Williams Attorney at Jacksonville
Charles Hart, Physician at Do. Illinois
James Hemmingway near Augusta Go.
Frederick Arms " Do.
Ralph Barnard Merchant at Nyork
Richard Williams Illinois
Mrs Mary Russell at Mexico Georgia
Frederick Bridge at Boston
Maria Barron at Bangor Maine
All the above, excepting E Williams, were late young people when they left Deerfield.

The mortality is extraordinary; once shall it be inferred that our town has any thing peculiar in its atmosphere which renders it dangerous to reside in places where that peculiarity is not found? Ralph Barnard had resided in Boston several years, once in the western part of Georgia for about one year, and was on business at New-York when he died. All the others had resided recently

in the North village of Deerfield? and most of them were born here.

Physiologists inform us that persons who have not attained their growth are very liable to sickness over a change of climate, or employment; and some have mentioned that such are not fit for soldiers. Bonaparte seems to have known this fact: when he demanded recruits from France, he required them to be men — for "boys were good for nothing but to line the roads with sick men". If this be true, what a distraction of lives would follow the calling out of young men of the militia into the field? This is a subject little attended to in obtaining soldiers, and worthy of the consideration of military officers. Old soldiers who have been seasoned to camps are usually hardy and healthy, "may" serve their way, unharmed through very foul, in every clime."

The valley of Deerfield is supposed to be a healthy station

though formerly it was considerably subject to fevers especially in the fall seasons. There are but few or no stagnant pools, and the soil is well cultivated and generally covered with vegetation, and of course, the air is pure, but probably warmer than the hill towns, especially in the summer seasons. May not the purity of the air render its inhabitants, who remove to places where the air is less pure, more liable to the endemics of those places, than those who have been inured to unwholsome air?

The inquiry may be new, but perhaps not unworthy of consideration.

1835. 41 December 27. Last night our River was broken up by the rise of its water and masses of jammed ice filled its channel. The snow covering the ground, and have given us excellent sleighing, is considerably reduced, though still sufficient for roads.

42 Tract on Comets.
By M. Arago, attached to the Royal Observatory at Paris.
Translated from the French
By John Farrar.

Boston 1832 pp. 92

This useful little essay is divided into two parts; the first treating upon the nature of Comets and their orbits; the second embracing a variety of subjects connected with them. The work is written in a popular manner and furnishes much matter, interesting & curious.

In answer to the question "Is it possible for a Comet to strike the earth or any other planet?" Mr Arago, after noticing the orbits round the sun in all possible directions says "It is not, therefore, impossible for a Comet to encounter the earth."

But, he says, the probability of such an event is extremely small. Suppose says he, a Comet of which we know nothing but that, at its perihelion, it

met

will be nearer the Sun than we are, and that its diameter is equal to a quarter of that of the earth; the doctrine of chances shows that, out of two hundred and eighty one millions of cases, there is but one against us, - but one in which the two bodies could meet.

The following is his cooling remark. Admitting, then, that the nucleus of a comet may strike the earth and annihilate the human race at once, the danger to each individual, on the appearance of an unknown comet, would be exactly equal to the chance he would run, if there were one black ball in a box with 281.000.000 balls of another color, and his condemnation to death were the inevitable consequence of his drawing at the first trial, that one black ball.

Any reasonable being, continues he, however attached he may be to life, would smile at such a small risk as this; the appearance then of a comet that has never been ob-

served

served, and whose course is unknown, may, as to the danger it portends to earth inhabitants of this globe, be represented by the black ball in the box of which I have spoken.

In discussing the question whether comets have ever fallen into the sun, the author comes to the conclusion, that such as approach so near as to pass into the sun's atmosphere, may be so retarded as to fall into the sun; and he is of opinion that the comet of 1680, must in the end, meet with this catastrophe.

The consequences which might result from a passage of the earth into the tail of a comet, are examined in the work, as well as the pretended effects which several writers ascribe to such an event: such as, that at the date of the comet of 1668, "all the Cats in Westphalia were sick"; and that earthquakes follow their appearance; as well as cold seasons, tempests hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, violent hail-storms, great falls of snow, heavy rains, overflowings of rivers,

drought

drought, famines, thick fogs, Phis, gr aphosphens, plague, dysentery, con-tagious diseases among animals - all of which are registered by an English physician, Mr G Forster.

Remembering upon such frivolous pretences Mr Arago uses the following language.

"I wish for the honor of science, that I could have dispensed with taking any serious notice of the ridiculous ideas I have just adverted to; but I am satisfied that this exposition will not be without its use, for Gregory, Tyler ham and Lu-binietski have many followers among us."

"Moreover, if you will only listen, in those circles which are called fashionable, to the long discourses of which the approaching comet is the theme, you may de-cide whether there is any room to congratulate ourselves upon the pretended diffusion of know-ledge, which so many perfection-ists are pleased to consider as the distinguishing feature

feature of our age. For myself, I have long been aware of these illusions. Under the brilliant but superficial gloss, with which the friendly literary studies of our colleagues cover all classes of society, we almost always find, to speak plainly, a profound ignorance of those beautiful phenomena, those grand laws of nature, which are our best safeguard from prejudice".

The following geographical phenomenon is outstanding. "There is in Russia & Persia, a vast region, covered with populous towns, great commercial establishments, and fertile lands, which is nevertheless, much below the level of the ocean. according to Humboldt, the extent of this low region cannot be less than 100,000 square miles. The level of the Caspian sea and consequently that of the city of Astracan, is more than 300 feet below the level of the Black sea or of the ocean. Even in the heart of Russia, the course of the Wolga, and the countries through which it flows, are

are depressed 150 feet &c. The Wolga flows into the Caspian Sea, of course, & it cannot empty into the Ocean.

The tract of Mr Arago is not only instructing, but amusing, and will reward the reader for its perusal, on small expense, of 37½ cents.

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43 Death of Ephraim Williams Esqr

We now have the melancholly task of recording the death of one of our most esteemed citizens, and one who has been honorably known to the people of Massachusetts, Ephraim Williams Esqr.

He died at his house on Sunday morning the 27th of December aged 75 years, leaving a widow, & one only ——— son of about 19 years of age. He had been on the decline for several months, and his death was not unexpected. ~~[illegible]~~

We give the following brief sketch of his Biography, hastily penned from our recollection. Should

prove deficient in dates, and perhaps in some facts. But these could not ~~well~~ be avoided without more extensive research. Hence what is now presented to him ~~[illegible]~~

Ephraim Williams Jr. the eldest son of Dr Thomas Williams by his second wife, was born in this Town November 1760. While a lad he was for some time employed in agriculture, on the farm of his Father; but it was soon discovered that he possessed a genius for literary and scientific education; and after passing through the usual course of domestic education and the preparatory requisite for the study of law, he entered the office of the Hon Theodore Sedgwick of Stockbridge, as student, where he acquired an accurate knowledge of the first principles of that abstruse and intricate profession.

Having completed his studies with Mr Sedgwick, he returned to Deerfield and, if my recollection is correct, opened an office for the practice of Law. He soon became

relinquished his business at Deerfield & returned to Stockbridge, and continued the office of Mr Sedgwick as a partner, with whom he remained a number of years, and had the principal charge of the business, during the absence of his partner as member of Congress.

In the County of Berkshire he became extensively known as an acute lawyer, and acquired a handsome property. He was called, in that County, the honest and faithful advocate, terms not always bestowed by the profession, on those of his profession. At length he gave up the practice of law, and returned once more to his native town of Deerfield, where he spent his time in the pursuit of general knowledge.

Up to this time Massachusetts had made no provision for a Reporter of decisions in her Courts. This defect was at length remedied by the Legislature and a Statute passed providing for such an establishment. Once Mr Williams was ap-

promotion to the office, with a handsome salary. In this employment he continued about a year, publishing a volume of the decisions of the supreme Court, the first work of the kind that had appeared in our State, and, to the regret of his friends, resigned his office.

During this time he became a conspicuous as a lawyer, though he often gave legal advice to his friends when called upon; but always without fees of any kind. His opinions were considered by the bettermost of his profession, as sound and safe; and the people, at large, had the utmost reliance on his decisions. He had lived a single life while engaged in his profession; but at length finding himself in easy circumstances, and that "it was not good for man to be alone", he married a worthy lady, Miss Emily Trowbridge, by whom he had a son, whom he has educated & as is now in the study of Divinity.

Mr Williams was frequently

solicited by his friends to stand as a candidate for election to the State Legislature, and also for a representative to Congress; but his preference for a retired life predominated, and his friends, with regret, submitted to his decision. In politics he was of the Washington school, and he saw with just apprehension the ascendancy of the Jeffersonian system and the Destiny of our Country. By some of the enthusiasts of ~~the~~ Jefferson's ~~school~~ party, he was thought to be unfriendly to a democratic form of Government. This probably arose from the expression of his fears of the permanency of ours. Even indeed, when he saw men raised to places of trust by the insidious arts of intriguing and unprincipled ~~men~~ demagogues, he did not hesitate to express his apprehensions that our constitutions were in danger of ruinous innovations; and (with the fact he believed that "when unscrupulous men have sway the fate of Rome is a foregone conclusion".

acting under these impressions, he may sometimes have withheld his services when his country justly demanded them. But of his attachment to a pure system of republicanism, which he had sworn to support, in the various offices he sustained under it, there cannot be a doubt in the minds of discerning men.

In one particular his friends considered him in fault. While they saw his gigantic mind penetrating into the depths of metaphysics & jurisprudence, and scrutinizing the prevailing systems of theology, they regretted that he did not aid the cause of truth by a frequent exercise of his pen; and we have not learned that he has left any systematic work other than his volume of reports.

In his younger days he sometimes gave us specimens of poetry, which evinced a talent at this composition of no mean order; and which if sedulously cultivated would have found an elevated seat among the muses.

To us it was a matter of much

regret that he did not penetrate to greater depths the subjects of natural Philosophy and mathematics, in which he appeared alike capable of eminence. In the first principles of the latter, he often gave us specimens of his talents which promised eminent success had he prosecuted the study. In earth matter he stood unrivaled in this part of the country; nor was he unacquainted with some of the elements of the higher branches of mathematics; but his inclination seemed to lead, neither to the pursuit of metaphysical studies; and the heredaneous Library he has left, will indicate his choice of subjects.

In conclusion we say - If an honorable and strictly moral life - an enlightened course - an astute discernment and sound judgment, joined to ... universal esteem of the people; constitute the great and good man; then our deceased friend ~~[illegible]~~ was eminently entitled to these epithets.

(And, may we learn from the commendable examples he has left us,
~~our [illegible]~~
"That, through genius and extensive knowledge do not always command public esteem, yet those connected with an honorable course and faithful discharge of the duties due to themselves and to society, they seldom fail of the applause of good men.")

"Sprung from a race to nought but virtue born,
"Advanced by industry to pomp & state;
"Yet he, beholding these with eyes of scorn,
"Rose above fame, and deemed be truly great."

44

The Connecticut Magazine of useful knowledge, published in Boston, in monthly numbers.

This work now edited by Abner Bradford, late secretary of the state, is rising in public estimation. In the number for November last are found many excellent essays on a variety of subjects, evincing the capability of the editor; and

with due public patronage, we think it will become a valuable periodical. In politics it claims to be neutral; but it is evidently opposed to some of the European schemes & the theorists of the present day; and while it would give full scope to free discussion on all subjects, it bears out a strong check to licentiousness & the press. Many of its essays on philosophical subjects are ingenious and useful, especially to men who have not access to extensive libraries.

Under the article Telescopes a self-taught mechanic is brought before the public, whose name has been little known heretofore; though a resident of Hampshire County in our State, not much over 40 miles from us, we have seldom heard his name mentioned.

Amasa Holcomb is the ingenious gentleman to whom we have alluded. He is now constructing reflecting telescopes, for which he has been recently examined by a committee of divines and scientific, approved

by the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia; the largest has a focal length of 9½ feet, the diameter of the reflector 6½ inches, and has five achromatic eye-pieces, for showing objects erect. The lowest power is 57 and the highest 900.

From observations made on the moon and double stars, the Committee say, that the largest reflector furnished views interesting, and exceeded any thing which they had witnessed before, in the use of any other telescope.

The Holcomb's instrument, are constructed on the plan of Herschel, and the Committee look forward with confident expectations, that the Society is not far distant, when the Country will be in the possession of a 20 foot reflector of native workmanship, rivalling the best European instruments.

It is singular, and not much to the credit of our Country, that this unassisted and talented mechanic optician, has not been made more extensively known; and we can attribute the silence no other cause than, that there

over petty strife for office, and the contentions in politics, absorb almost the whole of the attention of our people, to the ~~[illegible]~~ neglect of the higher branches of science.

The Editor of the magazine is favorably known to the public as the author of several volumes of the History of Massachusetts; and though somewhat advanced in years, seems to retain all the vivacity and energy of his younger days. Under his superintendence the periodical cannot fail to prove both useful and instructing matter

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145 Periodical Depot. Boston, No. 129 Washington Street.

At this depot E. R. Broaders, has for sale a great variety of periodical works, American & English, and makes up Orders for London on the 1st of each month.

Journal of the Franklin Institute published monthly at Philadelphia price 5 Dollars, is found at the depot, a valuable work.

44 On friday December the 18th Mr Jackson of Mass. presented a petition from the inhabitants of Wrentham for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and moved that it be referred to a select Committee.

Mr Hammond of S. Carolina, moved to reject the petition, insisting on the House putting the seal of reprobation on all such petitions!

The debates that ensued were, as might be expected, of the most violent kind, on the part of the southern members. The petitioners called a firebrand, and the petitioners fanatics who ought not to be heard in the House. &c. &c. &c – we will not follow with the insulting language used.

Any attempt at this time, to ameliorate the condition of the slaves in the District is about as likely to succeed, as one to remove the Alleghany mountains.

In the non-slaveholding states, where we might expect to find a strong opposition to slavery, there is as Dr Channing says "a weak yielding tone" among our leading men, very

unlike that which prevailed at the commencement of our revolution. Then the rights of individuals and suffering humanity, were of some importance; now the question seems to be, when any measure is proposed, how will it effect our interest? Let the southern people tell our merchants, that they will suspend trade with them, if they utter any thing to be said against slavery, and the response is, cringing submission — base compliance — shuffling apology, under the pretension that the Union is in danger.

How this spirit contrasted with that we displayed Great Britain, we never should have been an independent people.

Our interfere not with the rights of the Slave holders, within their States; but we claim to be exempted from men selling our slave coffles, in the District of Columbia, where the principles of our constitution are defied by daily occurrences before our eyes. So long as selfish principles govern, slavery will continue.

The people of the United States are seen to be flourishing and happy under the enjoyment of equal rights and self government; and yet between two and three millions are in chains and compelled to drag out a life of servitude under the lash of their masters in the hands of those who are boasting of their liberty and equality.

Does any country on the face of the earth present a similar spectacle? If slavery is not abolished in the District, we insist that the rights of freemen should be restored to all, whether they be black, white, or mixed.

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47 General Harrison.

In a letter from this Gentleman to an antimasonic Committee of Pennsylvania, dated Cincinnati 24-Nov-1835, he says "I have in every instance when applied to, declared that I was not a mason, and that I was opposed to the order. When I wrote the letter of the 6th of may last, I was misinformed as to many of the objections entered into by masons. I have since seen a part of the evidence in a

tuae in which Mr Stevens of Gettysburgh was a party; and as from the disclosures then made, it appears that the obligations of the members of the order, as understood by a portion of them, are totally incompatible with their duty to the laws of their country, I cannot but consider the existence of masonry as an evil, both moral and political, however small, and I trust and believe it small, may be the number of those who hold these abstruse and abominable opinions".

More than nine years have elapsed since the contest with masonry began, during which time hundreds of masons have seceded from the order and given to the public full developments of the secrets and practices of masonry; and yet Genl Stevenson has remained in ignorance of them until the trial in which Mr Stevens was a party came before the public.

Has the General been in a profound sleep for nine years? or

have the western Masons hood-winked him so thoroughly that he could not see the numerous publications that have been before the people, even in Ohio? If his political eyes are equally blind we should look for little light from him, should he be placed in the Presidential chair. But we will not condemn him wholly for this sort of blindness; for others have exhibited a similar stupidity. And if all had been of this description, we might masons have boasted that this system could not be put down. Thanks to the good sense of Americans, the wickedness and folly of masonry, is now beginning to be seen by its blind supporters, and we trust the scales are falling from the eyes of all, who are not wicked-ly blind.

At no time since the murder of Capt. Morgan has the cause of Christianity been more prominent than at the present time. Its correctness is now acknowledged and felt by our leading men; and though they were not friendly, we will give them a share of our history.

Mass. Legislature

40

On Wednesday the 6th of January the Legislature of our State is to assemble at Boston, for the transaction of the usual business.

Having recently had an adjourned session for the revisal of our Laws, it may be expected that there will not be a group of business. This, however, is somewhat doubtful; of late there seems to be a great disposition on the part of many, to introduce new matter for legislation, which occupies the legislature, at each session, as much as when two sessions were held in a year; and there seems to be a restless disposition among the people, which indicates an unquiet disposition.

In a time of peace and prosperity we are very apt to forget the blessings we enjoy, and restless men seize on the errors to bring themselves into places of profit, when what they call honour, forgetting the real interest of the people. We look to the state

of public feeling we must look to the intelligence and honesty of those who elect men to important places. True there may be abuses in government of a long standing which require the correcting hand of the people, but the difficulty arises from running into excess; and here nice discrimination is required. Let an alarmed view from a powerful enemy threaten us, and we should soon see all minor differences put at rest. Then every patriot would expect himself in defense of the real rights of the people, and if successful we should at once learn what is most valuable among us. Even we deprecate as a great evil, but there are others which may be not less ominous.

The election of so valuable a man as Edward Everett, to the office of Governor of this Commonwealth, is a favorable omen, and we hope his administration will tend to the repose and happiness of the people. We look eagerly for his message to the Legislature, and believe, like the more, it will be found unexceptionable as I

I have mentioned minor differences, but let it not be misunderstood that the ship concerning masonry is to be received under this head. When it is found that a secret society, bound together by partisan oaths and obligations - one without redress - hounders our citizens - burns our printing offices and, by forging sets at defiance the laws of our common Courts, we think that such a society is not to be received under the head of minor differences; but requires of every friend, the most untiring efforts to prosecute it in the dust, and prevent its future inroads upon our free government.

This is no party dispute; it arises from the purest principle of self-preservation, in which all parties should agree; and I trust that slaughter of the poisonous exotic is complete, we may turn our attention to other subjects and minor differences - but not until this object is consummated -

In the Notes and Illustrations appended to the 2d Vol of Dr. Thacher Holmes Annals (American), the Dr says four volumes of manuscript Orderly Books of Capt. Holmes, are in his possession, from which some facts, illustrative of the French war of 1755 are derived. Capt Holmes commanded a company in Col. Fitch's Regiment, and joined the army at Fort Edward June 24th 1758, and performed the duty of his office during 3 campaigns, the last terminating at the Conquest of Canada 14 September 1760.

An account of the attack on Rogers and Putnam at Fort-Ann, on the 8th of August 1758 is found in the Books. The battle is said to have been about one mile south from Wood Creek from which they marched in single file, on the morning of that day. Holmes service in the army of the Revolution 3 or 4 years as a Physician. The terms were cut off July 28. 1758, the place not mentioned. Vol. 2. Holmes p. 523.

These Orderly Books must be valuable. I wish to peruse them —

50. Arnolds Journal 20th September 1775.

In the Appendix of Sparks life of Col. Burr, we find this Journal of Genl Arnolds. It was found among his papers which he left at West Point when he fled, on hearing of the capture of Andre. The original is said to be in rather a dilapidated state, and some of the leaves are wanting. It commences Sept. 27th and ends Oct. 30. at a point where the De Lospis enters the Chaudiere. This, with Judge John Joseph Henry's account of the expedition under Arnold, furnishes details for the Historian. Henry's Account was published at Lancaster Penn. 1812. He was one of Morgans Riflemen, and was made a prisoner at the attack on Quebec, on the night of the 31st of December 1775. This work contains much minute detail of the whole campaign, beyond what is found in any other History.

The Expedition was an adventurous one, and hardly would have been undertaken under the mere men made in late times

51 Judge H. L. White.

In a letter from this gentleman to two antimasons, dated Washington Dec. 9 1835, he says - "I am not now and never have been a mason. I never felt a wish or willingness to join any society, the objects, the principles, or the rules of which, as well as the duties and obligations it would impose on me, I might remain ignorant of, until after I became a member. As this must be my situation in relation to the masonic society, I never applied to any lodge for admission".

Col. on masonry have been sent to the Judge for his perusal, but it seems he has not found time to peruse it. He will soon be able to make up his judgment on the system, once see whether condemn it, with as much security as has Mr Webster.

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52 The Boston Press. of Jany 5 - 1836 says. "The assembly of Pennsylvania has appointed a Committee to investigate Freemasonry, with power to send for persons and papers. Thaddeus Stevens

Stevens is Chairman and the other members are Drew of Allegheny; Cox of Somerset; Alston of Fayette and Spankman of Philadelphia.

The Committee have, it is understood, made a thorough and searching investigation into the "holy order", and have summoned the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to appear and show cause, and George Wolf, Chief Justice Gibson and many other high masons.

Now let it be searched to the bottom.

At the time when masonry was dance Morgan, its members little thought they should be brought to this scrutiny.

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53 Masonic Allegiance.

Some of the masonic professors which were highly favorably to Mr Webster before he gave his opinion against masonry, are now forcing out their wrath upon him, and declare him unfit for any high office under our Constitutions. Can our blind chiefs continue much longer under the hoodwinks?

The

The following extracts are from the Bunker-Hill Aurora and Boston Advertiser, as given in the Boston Press of the 5th of January 1836.

"To obtain the Presidency he (the Webster) has given up his principles, and would be willing also to give up his honesty — his soul."

"Great men are now great Centurions"

"Daniel Webster is willing to hold communion with such men as Nicholas the Autocrat, Don Miguel, and Ferdinand King of Spain. He is willing to follow their principles."

"With his superior talents, he is but a dangerous hypocrite and aspiring office seeker."

"God forbid that such a man as Daniel Webster should ever be placed at the head of any nation — no one should be called to that station who has not a pure conscience."

"He should rather be charged with extraordinary dishonesty, than with stupidity."

"I would not such a dispot be more important and much more

justifiable to Daniel Webster?

"He who openly proclaims his sympathy for the impious principles of deists, infidels and terrorists, ought never to be placed at the head of a community of Christians"—

Mr Webster was hard indeed not to be disturbed at these interjections; he has known the operations and power of money for many years; and thoroughly willing to place himself under the fire of its batteries, he has at length defied its shot; and is now ready to act in the demolition of its sinking footstep. Of its boasts that, "the world in arms could not stop it"; and that it was so powerful that it feared nothing from Christ either friends or foes, for it had every means to become it in season, to overturn or defeat and furnish it"; he was well aware. But he also knew that a few pieces of silver were enough to spent their "wallets". Their powers were powerless to money. The attacks on him by masons will have a good effect in opening the eyes of the blind. The

* See Brownlee's Oration at N. London 1825

Those of us who first took the lion by the beard, were also aware of his strength, and well did we know that the battle would be long and severe before we should drive the monster from his den. Yet with our slingers and smooth stone, we met him regardless of his ferocious growls, and at length pierced his shaggy head, we heard his defiance in distinct tones: "Come to me, and I will give of our reputation into the hands of your enemies; and your characters to reproach; I will smite your fair fame with the fever of my influence, and make your name a taunt and a byeword and a proverb in the earth". But conscious of the righteousness of our cause, we pressed onward. To mastery we sent, "though thy arm be iron, and thy bow brass; though thou sharpenest thy tongue like a serpent, and hast power to cast out of thy mouth secended in floods, to sweep away thy enemies; in the name of the Lord of hosts, whom from our forefathers we serve with a pure conscience, we defy thee. We come against thee;

thee; and let thy fate teach mankind anew, that pride and falsehood, however fortified by time, and strengthened by names of dignity and worth, cannot withstand the humble and well directed exponent of immaculate Truth!" (Wards Magazine Vol 1st.)

Though Hero's ashes, mouldering still occupies a place selected Dead, yet Freedom remains. It now remains for public opinion to search them to the bottom, and destroy every germ, that may otherwise spring into birth; and with the aid of the powerful auxiliaries who have now joined us, this will be accomplished. It can more virtuous and more glorious, on the part of the people, has never been recorded in history.

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54 Old Winters

In the Franklin Mercury of July 5. 1834, we find the following extract from memoranda made by the late Dr Long, in his almanacs

"June 20-1787. Cold and ground remain

hard frozen and covered with a deep snow. The ice in Deerfield River was so strong that Landlord Hoyt, at Chesnuttle drew loads of timber across Deerfield River upon the ice."

"In 1763 April 29 Snow so deep as to lie over all the fences in Greenfield and the neighboring towns, and cement so hard as to drive up horses and cattle, and Connecticut so hard frozen as to be good carting upon the ice"

"April 16-1785. Remarkable for a great depth of snow, being over most of the fences.

"April 25-1785 a sudden and great rise of water in the brooks and rivers. Deerfield meadows was most all made water, and the water actually ran through (across) the street."

Note. The memorandum of April 27-1763 relates, probably, to the time when the great hail-storm covered the deep snow, and formed a crust to the top of the fences, sufficient to bear up loaded teams, which I have often heard mentioned by old people.

The

The winters of late years present no snows of the depth of those mentioned by Dr Long, nor of such late continuance, though our weather is some times severe as at the periods noted. The weather of former years was more uniformly cold in the winter than at present. After winter commenced the snow was generally deep enough to the roads good until some time in January when a thaw occurred which broke up the ice in the Rivers often produced high floods, bringing down from the hillsides, vast masses of ice which spread over our extensive levels. This thaw was generally followed with cold weather and deep snows, which continued late in the spring. But the transition from cold to warm weather, was often very sudden; a deep coat of snow sometimes disappearing within a few days, followed with warm spring weather. In Lower Canada, I am informed, the winter and spring seasons are nearly similar at this time. though

though some winters were generally cold and attended with the severest instances have occurred in which they were mild and nearly destitute of snow. The winter of 1755 was of this description, and the rivers were scarcely closed. In the preceding November a remarkable Earthquake occurred in the Northern provinces, which did considerable damage to buildings particularly in our great towns. (See Holmes annals for that year.)

Since my recollection similar Weather has never occurred in New-England.

Whether the mildness of the winter of 1755 was at all connected with the preceding earthquake, is a question admitting of doubt. But if these convulsions are produced by subterraneous fires, which I think most probable, is it not likely that they may affect the surface of the earth where they have exerted their force?

The igneous origin of Earthquakes is now gaining ground among naturalists, and future observations may demonstrate its correctness.

160.

55 Legislature of Massachusetts

Met Wednesday 4 - 1834 January

In the senate 34 members present

Horace Mann was chosen President at the 18th ballot; the votes were, Mann 20 Whitmarsh 14, Hunt 1, ~~Crosby~~, Crosby 1. — Charles Calhoun was chosen Clerk on the first ballot. Votes; Calhoun 21, John Wade Jr 10

In the House — Julius A Rockwell chosen Speaker. Whole No. of votes 560 Rockwell 421, Robert Rantoul Jr 139 Luther S Cushing, Clerk 425. Fisher A. Hingsbury, of Weymouth 135 —

Boston Prep

Wednesday Jan. 7. In the House Mr Rantoul moved that a Committee be appointed to report any alterations that might be made in the provisions of law relating to Attorneys and Counsellors. Messrs Rantoul Hancock and Whittemore, the Committee. Mr H Williams presented an order for the appointment of a Committee to investigate the conduct of the savings banks in Boston, which was ordered to be printed.

56 Error to be corrected

In the 18th Chapter of my Antiquarian Researches, pages 178 & 179, among the books published in support of witchcraft I have mentioned Wierus de Prestigiis Daemonum &c &c. By Walter Scotts Letters on Demonology and witchcraft it appears this is an error. Wierus he says was a man of great research in physical science, and studied under Cornelius Agrippa; was a Doctor of Medicine and physician to the Duke of Cleves at whose Court he practised for thirty years with the highest reputation. He was one of the learned men who challenged the very existence of the imaginary crime of witchcraft, and totally exploded, both by serious arguments and by ridicule, the vulgar credulity on the subjects of Wizards and witches. The definition of witch, which I have inserted, in page 179, from his works is such it is true seemed, as we then entertained by its advocates, but not by himself. It was intended no doubt to shew the great absurdity of the prevalent belief. Even he was into error by Dr Cotton Mather, if recollect correctly.

57 Our Affairs with France.

By the papers it appears our relations with France are hopeless in a most unpleasant aspect. That nation we are informed, is fitting out armed ships to cruise on our coast, and to watch the movements of our Government in relation to the disagreement between the two governments. We may take place but we believe the differences will be settled without an appeal to arms. Thought of must be far from our appealing to them some of our rights. It is hoped our government will never receive from them ships, nor no longer neglect to fortify our country for a speedy defence; that they never place our condition upon a footing which shall render it respectable and fit for the field. A select corps of learned in tactics a certain time accordingly, once fixed, is the only safe resort. Let a system of this kind be immediately adopted and we shall be safe from an invasion.

without it, we may be called to witness scenes like that at Washington and Bladensburgh in 1814. If the claim to be an independent nation we must have a force able to defend it; any other reliance, within the power of man, is obviously futile.

We may line our sea board from mouth to the extremity of Louisiana with fortifications and what protection would this afford against an invading force with a fleet superior to ours, a strong body of land forces, ready to take the field at a moment's notice, would still be necessary. See remarks on this subject page 60.

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58 Halley's Comet is now said to be visible with telescopes in the northern quarter of the heavens, on its return from its perihelion. It will now lie in view for 75 years, and then again pass out of sight to the view of another generation. Its appearance and motion have been pretty accurately determined by our astronomers; rather long and very eccentric.

59 Celebration of American Victory of New Orleans, 1814.

In the Boston Press of the 12 January 1836 we have an account of the celebration by Citizens of Salem, at which Mr Alexander H. Everett delivered an address. One object of this celebration was to impress upon the young people the justness of the war of 1812, and to reconcile them to the course of President Jackson and to induce the election of Mr Van Buren. Of Mr Everett we have entertained a good opinion for his exertions in the cause of Antimasonry; but it is with some regret we see him enlisted on the side of President Jackson and his party. Of the War of 1812 we never entertained but one opinion; and that is, that it was unnecessary, unjust and foolish, and disadvantageous to our Country; and that it had its rise in the partiality of our rulers for the principles of the French, in opposition to those of our great Father Washington, and his adherents. By

By the honest men of that day the cause of the war was well understood, and without their opposition, it would have terminated ruinously for the United States. This opposition at length brought our infatuated rulers to a pause, and they were glad to retrace their steps, and once more adopt the federal principles of Washington.

The young men who have come upon the stage since, may be led to believe federalism was anti-republican; but when they arrive at the age of reflection and take the trouble to examine for themselves, they will find that the wild democracy of Jefferson and the steady federalism of Washington had no affinity; and that the prosperity of our Country has been effected only while the principles of the latter have prevailed. If our people have the wisdom to follow this course, they may continue happy, and enjoy all that rational things may require; but if they relinquish it, anarchy and confusion may succeed.

Gov. Everett's Message, 1836

This message (or address), was delivered from the Speaker's Chair on Sunday the 15th of January, in presence of the members of the Senate and the House, with crowded galleries of the Citizens, and occupied about 1¼ of an hour.

That the composition was elegant and the delivery graceful and impressive, need not be added, for those who have witnessed the extraordinary talents of Mr. Everett.

Throughout the address we are delighted to see a spirit of independence and unhesitating expression of his opinion on subjects which have recently agitated the public feelings; and while he recommends improvements in all cases where he deems them necessary, he avoids everything that tends to promote jealousy feelings. His great object seems to be the good of his Country, and under so able a chief magistrate we may look for the promotion of all that can render it happy. On the subject

of masonry he is both one elected, and with a notice of the late law against extra judicial oaths, says "It is time that this root of bitterness were wholly eradicated, and the still lingering causes of discontent and jealousy in this respect, finally sacrificed at the altar of public peace". Yet still retains his known sentiments, that "all secret associations, particularly all such as resort to the aid of secret oaths, are peculiarly at war with the genius of a republican government".

Those who, two or three years ago attempted to reject a petition from Antimasons, asking the liberty to use the hall of the house of representatives for an evening meeting, little thought that at this time they should hear from the chief magistrate, language like that which we have cited. Masonry now sees & feels the fruits of its violence, and many of our elected men are aware of its evils, and dare express their opinions on the subject. If the "evils in arms cannot stop it public sentiment will do

168.
61

Indian War in Florida.

From the Jacksonville Courier we learn that the Seminole Indians have commenced hostilities against the settlements in that quarter, and that skirmishes have taken place. The militia are called out, forts are erecting, and the frontier people are retiring from the plantations. The militia at a glance are but slightly armed, and muskets have been borrowed from some gentlemen of Savannah, Georgia.

1835 Dec 24

Thus it happens that when a war commences we have everything to prepare and individuals instead of the Government, are relied on for defence. Let there be a select corps of militia in every part of the U.S. and proper arsenals to furnish the requisite arms, accoutrements and ammunition and we might be able to meet an enemy at any point of attack and on any sudden emergency. But our rulers seem to let otherwise employed: the scramble for offices is the great point which engrosses their attention.

January 24 – a cold morning and clear. This weather has continued much the same from the first snow in November up to this time, excepting 2 days in which we have had rain, the latter a small quantity – Walls still very low – the sleighing excellent. Heavy snow this night = 1½ feet infinitely – high drifts.

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62 Mean Temperature.

The following Rule is given by Tobias Mayer of Gottingen for computing the mean annual Temperature of a place.

$$M = 84 - \overline{53 \times s^2}.$$ M being the mean temperature, s the sine of the Lat.

Exemplar. Lat. 42°. Sine = ,669; and ,669² = ,447561 the □ of sine. Then ,447 × 53 = 23,691: and 84 – 23,69 = 60°,31, the mean temperature of Lat. 42°, (Fahrenheit's thermometer)

The water in deep wells is used, generally, to indicate the temperature (mean) of any place.

Note. Mayer's rule is believed to be but an approximation to the truth.

63 Useful Problems in Geodaesia.

1. Given the ∠s of elevation of any distant object, taken at three places in a horizontal line, which does not pass through the point directly below the object; and the respective distances between the stations; to find the height of the object and its distance from either station.

The solution of this problem is given in Gregory's mathematics for practical men, page 148; in Hutton's mathematics Vol. 2. p. 76, and in Adams's Graphical Essays.

2. From a convenient station, where could be seen three objects, whose distances from each other were known I took the horizontal ∠s, subtended by these objects. It is hence required to determine the respective distances of my station from each object

For a solution of this problem See Gregory's Math. for Practical men, p. 146 and also Adams's Graphical Essays. For several other problems useful in trigonometrical Surveying

such as finding the spherical excess of spherical Δs; reduction of lines to the level of the ocean; determining horizontal refraction; finding the L made by a line with the meridian, and the latitude of a place by a circumpolar star. See Hutton vol. 2. pages 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90

For an account of the trigonometrical Survey of England, by Gen. Roy, Col. Williams, Mr Dalby and Col. Mudge see pages 66. 67. 68, 69 of same work.

Two 4to vols. containing a full detail of the operations in this survey, may be found in the Athenæum at Boston; and a set ought to be in the Library of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, for the benefit of those who are now employed in the trigonometrical survey of our State; as well as a complete collection of instruments for geodesic operations, most of which have been obtained from England.

(4) An easy and accurate method of determining the angle any line drawn on the Earth makes with the meridian.

With a large and well constructed instrument, having a telescope with cross filaments accurately adjusted, measure the greatest and least angular distance of the vertical plane in which is the Star α in Ursa minor (or the pole Star) from the given line; and half the sum of these measures will be the angle required.

The instrument should be one which measures Lat in Long with as well as altitudes: use good theodolite or other instrument of a similar construction

Suppose the line to have a N E bearing. Set the instrument on the line and secure it fast in that position; turn the telescope to the east and observe the greatest east elongation of the star, by elevating the telescope;

ance suppose the angle read off to be a. About 12 hours after observe the Star at its greatest east elongation and the angle found $= b$. Then

$\frac{a+b}{2}$ = the time $\angle$, or bearing of the line from the meridian.

Note This operation requires, the Star to be visible for at least 12 hours.

The method is a very accurate one for determining the variation of the needle, as well as the bearing of the line; and as the Lat. of the place is not required, it is easy as well as accurate: no nice refraction to be regarded.

To prevent errors in the observations, several should be made, and a mean of the whole taken.

By taking the greatest and least or nearest altitudes of the same Star, and correcting for refraction, the Lat. is very accurately determined.

Any other circumpolar Star will answer the same purpose; but the $\angle$s must be greater in proportion to its polar distance.

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Special message of the President of
65 the US. Jany. 15 - 1836.

In this message it appears that the French government are determined that their compliance with the terms of the late indemnity treaty, is to rest on conditions which they have dictated to us. With their requisition the President refuses to comply; and recommends a prohibition of French products and the entry of their vessels into our ports; and an increase of our navy and the completion of our Sea coast defences.

It now remains for Congress to act, or submit to the dictation of a haughty foreign power. Were we a military nation, I think our course would be clear. But as we are, the question is - Shall we fight for our rights or succumb? To suspend intercourse with France is strictly just on our part, and if this shall produce a war, there let it so. Let us prepare for the event. Now the necessity of a select body of militia is apparent in

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Cure of Deafness.—We have recently published from the New York papers, some interesting particulars of a cure of deafness, and of the acquisition in consequence, by the patient, of the power of articulation. We had previously heard of a similar cure at Philadelphia, in the person of a child of Mrs. Lyman of Northampton, in this State. The Philadelphia Gazette publishes a letter from Dr. Togno of that city, in which this cure is referred to. If we have been rightly informed this child was not deaf from her birth, but became so in consequence of some disease in early infancy. After speaking of a similar cure effected on Albert Newman in February last, a deaf and dumb person twenty one years of age, Dr. Togno proceeds as follows:

Since the above case I had the good fortune, in April last, to restore to hearing *another* deaf and dumb person. I allude to Miss Helena Lyman, of Northampton, Mass. only nine years old. Her powers of imitation, at this age, being very great, she soon, under my tuition, learnt how to utter all the elementary sounds of the English language, and before she returned home, pronounced distinctly a catalogue of words, as well as some phrases. She could distinguish time and pitch in music. Miss Lyman is the second deaf and dumb individual ever restored to hearing in *this country*. Her powers of discriminating the various sounds yielded by different bodies, was, before she left Philadelphia, very great; she could identify a body by the sound that it yields.

There is no doubt, in my mind, that at least one half of the deaf and dumb individuals now condemned to *eternal deafness*, by the generally prevailing ignorance, might be restored to hearing by an appropriate treatment. My professional labors have, for a long time, been devoted to the solution of this important problem to humanity, and I hope they may be crowned with success.

Books lent from my Library since out Jany 1. 1834

× Adams' Astronomy 1 Vol. To Mr Lincoln Principal Academy

× Drakes Book of the Indians 1 Vol to Plinny Arms Esqr.

× "Six months in a Convent" confirmed by testimony of more than 100 witnesses &c. to Mrs. Hellen Hayt.

× My Manuscript of Burgoynes Campaign, to Mr George T. Davis of Greenfield (all returned)

Mym. Col. Stebbins sends by me to pay the messenger 2 Dol

Edwd H. Williams — to pay for the American Mag. 2 Do

Allynes Rituae of Masonry, left at the Mercury office some time ago (in Greenfield) not found